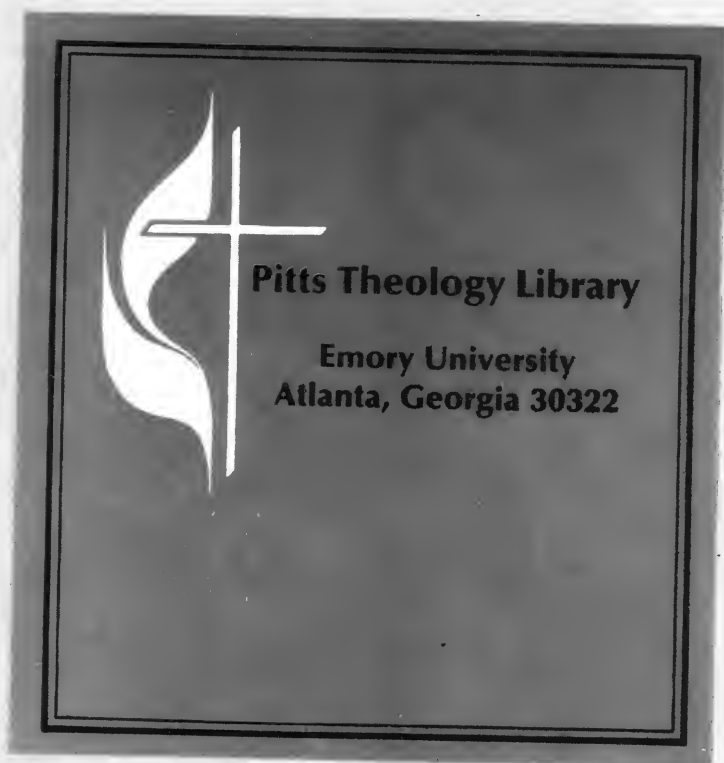
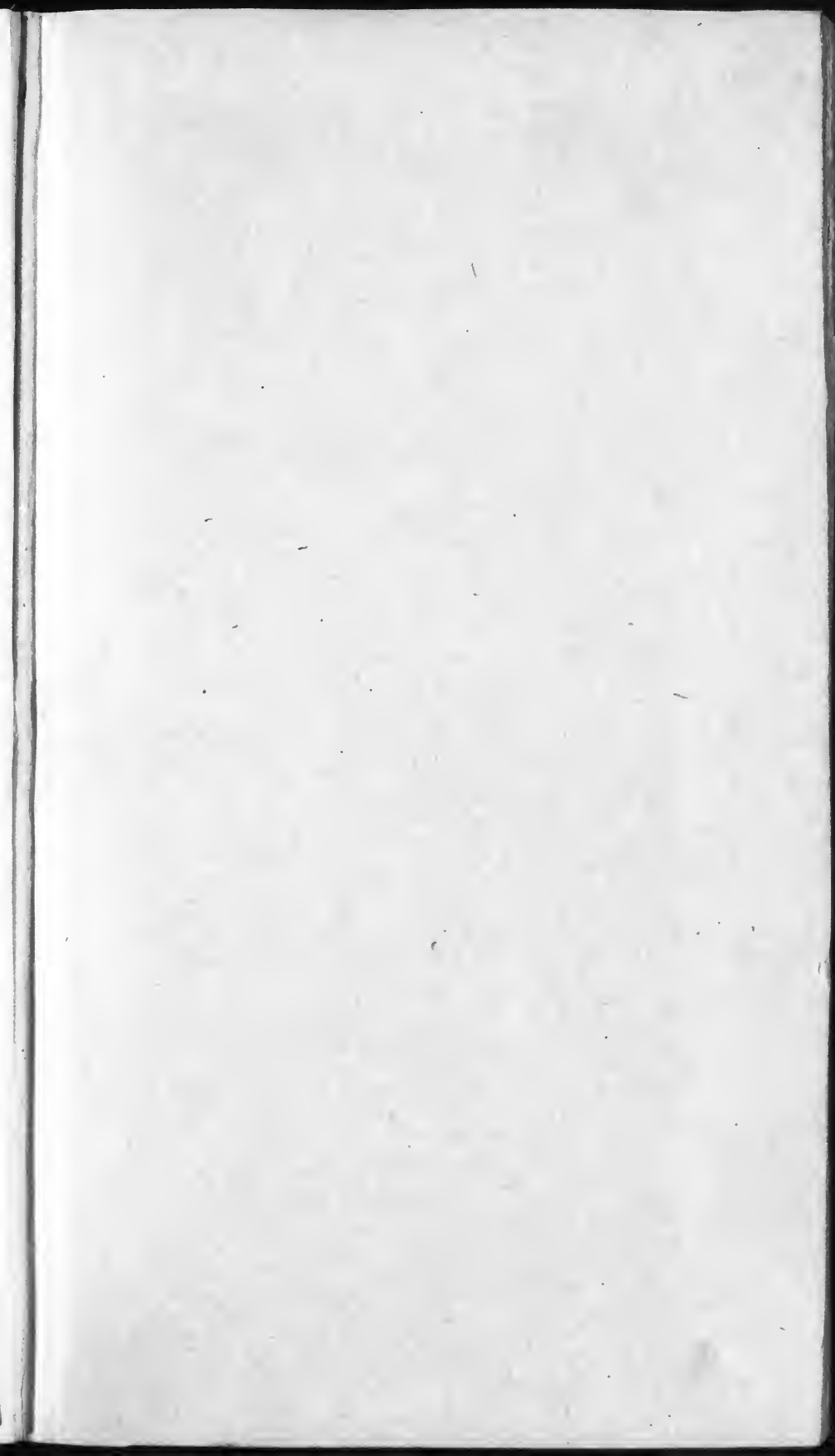


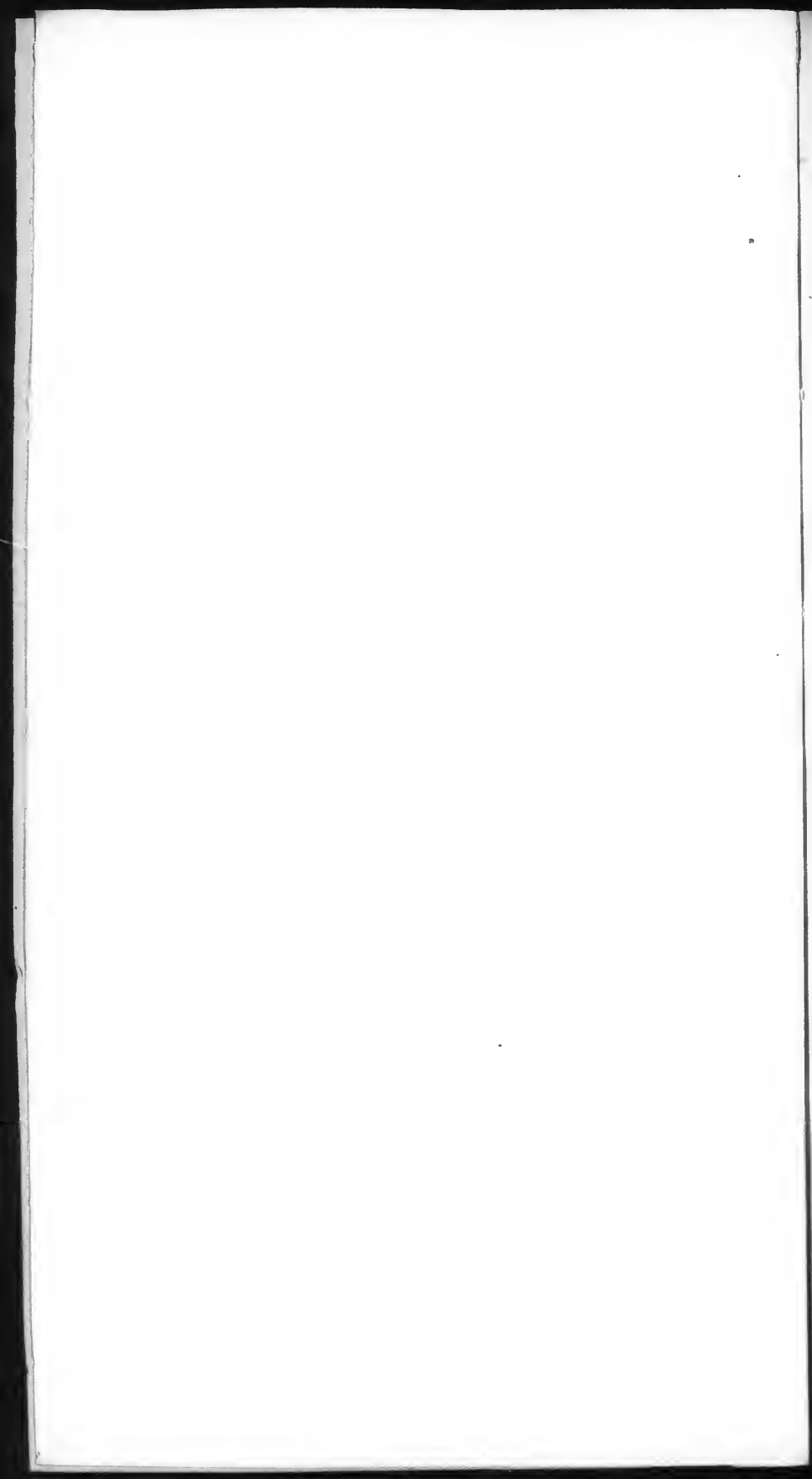
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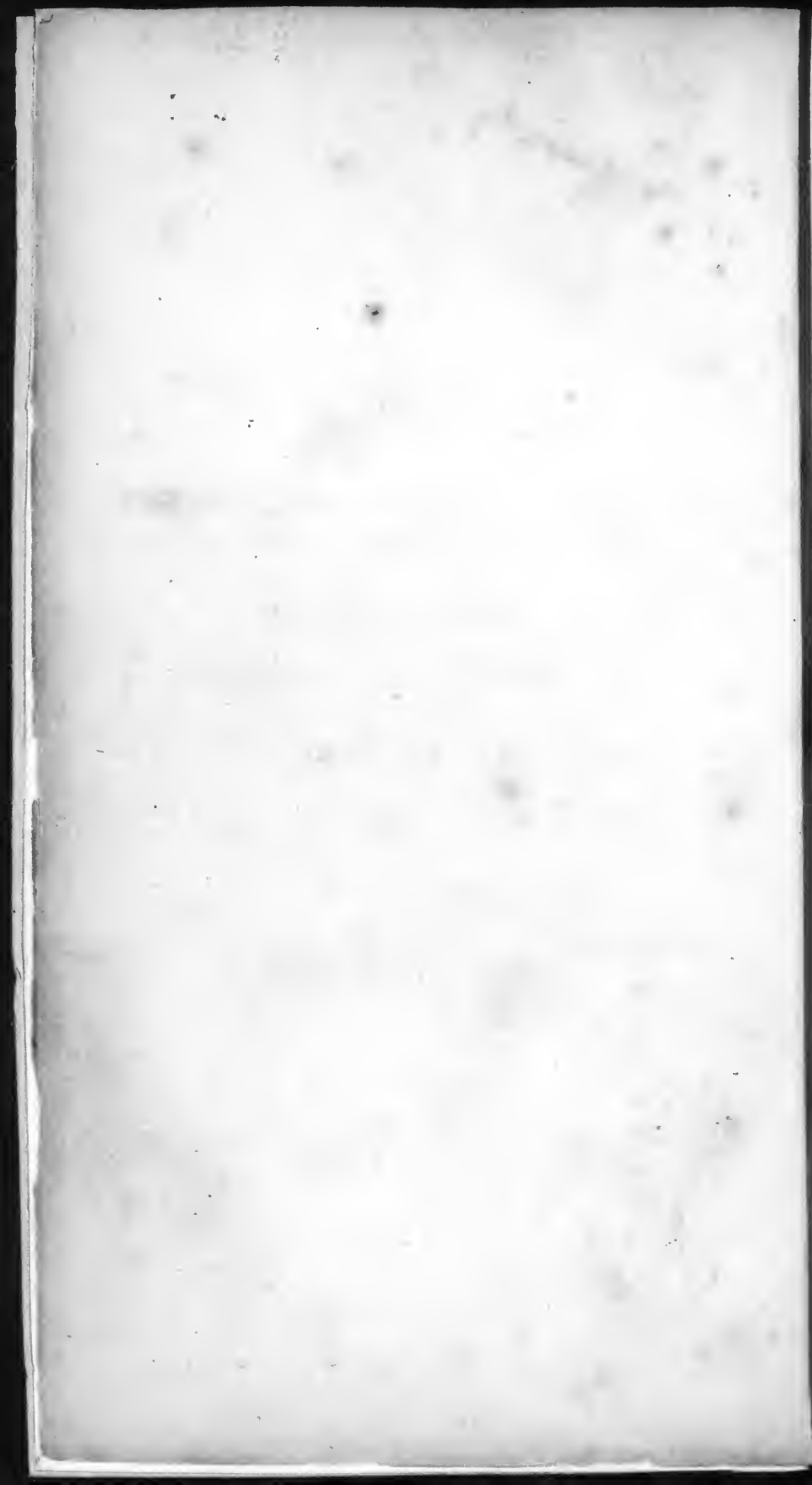
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MEMOIR
OF
MISS HANNAH BALL.



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MEMOIR
OF
MISS HANNAH BALL,

OF HIGH-WYCOMB, IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

WITH EXTRACTS FROM HER DIARY AND
CORRESPONDENCE.

181

ORIGINALLY COMPILED BY THE REV. JOSEPH COLE;

REVISED AND ENLARGED

BY JOHN PARKER, GENT.

WITH A PREFACE

BY THE REV. THOMAS JACKSON.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY JOHN MASON, 14, CITY-ROAD;
AND SOLD AT 66, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1839.

BLW/289

B3

LONDON :

R. Needham, Printer, 1, Belle-Sauvage Yard.

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PREFACE.

AN account of Miss Ball was published many years ago by the Rev. Joseph Cole; but it has long been out of print, and was in many respects very defective. The esteemed Editor of the following narrative has therefore rendered a valuable service to the cause of pure religion by publishing the Memoirs of this very excellent woman in a greatly improved form. For this he is justly entitled to the cordial thanks of all lovers of spiritual biography.

There are many things in the personal history of Miss Ball which are worthy of special attention, and which cannot be too closely considered and imitated by all who desire to be Christians indeed.

It was in early life that she was led to a decided choice of the good part. She spent

not the greater portion of her life in sin; nor fled from the vanities of the world when they could be no longer retained and enjoyed; but while yet young in years, and surrounded by the fascinations of evil, she gave her heart to the Saviour, and joined herself to him in a perpetual covenant never to be forgotten. Nearly all the people who have become eminent examples of piety and usefulness have done the same. We cannot too soon give ourselves to our Redeemer, to whom we of right belong. The most important consequences, both in this world and the next, depend upon early piety. Its advantages are inestimable.

Almost at the beginning of her Christian course Miss Ball was subjected to a trial of no ordinary severity. Her hand was sought in marriage by a young man, who appears, to a considerable extent, to have gained her affections. Yet he was a stranger to true religion, and therefore unsuited to a person of her devout spirit and habits. She was warned by her spiritual adviser of the danger of uniting herself permanently to an irreligious man; and

she had the pious firmness to retrace her steps, painful as this doubtless was to her feelings. Upon this act her happiness and character in future life, in all probability, were made to hinge. Had she become the wife of an ungodly man, it is impossible to say what sorrow would have been entailed upon her, and what spiritual loss she would have experienced. She obeyed the command of Scripture, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers;" and found that, in this instance, as well as in others, obedience brings a sure reward. She preserved a pure conscience, and secured many advantages.

There are not a few Christians who, having obtained the forgiveness of their sins, and the blessing of regenerating grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, seem contented, in a great measure, to rest in these attainments, without going on unto perfection. Whereas the Apostle declares the willingness and ability of the Lord to do for those who believe in him, "exceeding abundantly above all that they ask or think, according to the power which" already

“worketh in them.” Of this Miss Ball was aware, and wisely entered into his gracious and merciful designs. She truly “hungered and thirsted after righteousness;” and, according to the divine promise, she was “filled” with it. Having attained to that fulness of the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying influence, to which all believers were invited, but which few, comparatively, are duly anxious to attain, she was enabled to “rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, and in every thing give thanks.” Hence the correctness of her conduct, and the brightness of her hope. Such examples shed a lustre upon the Christian profession, and stimulate others to “follow on to know the Lord.” It was with an especial reference to her growth in grace that she kept that record of her religious experience from which the following pages derive their chief value.

Yet hers was not a life of inactivity, and of unfruitful contemplation. In the early ages of the church there were women who united with the Apostles in carrying into effect the holy and practical design of the Gospel. They

instructed the young, and especially persons of their own sex, in divine things; and thus attempted to save souls from death, and train them up for heaven. Miss Ball exerted herself in the same manner. She cherished a strong affection for children; and for many years was very useful in giving them that Christian training which the holy Scriptures recommend, and which is so intimately connected with their personal welfare, and the prosperity of the church. The benefits, personal, social, and domestic, with those which are of a spiritual and moral nature, that arose out of her faithful exertions, will only be fully discovered in the day when the secrets of all hearts are disclosed. Her biographer states that in the year 1769 she established a Sunday-school, which she long and successfully continued. This was nearly fourteen years before Mr. Raikes engaged in the same benevolent service. Her talent for the Christian training of children was considerable; and she improved it to the glory of her Lord, and the solid advantage of many. She felt a rich gratification in fulfilling

the command of Christ, by feeding the lambs of his flock with knowledge and understanding. To witness the happy effects of her pious toil and care, in the pure and upright characters which she had been a means of forming, must have imparted to her generous spirit a satisfaction both deep and permanent.

That Miss Ball enjoyed, in a high degree, the respect and confidence of Mr. Wesley is very manifest from the general tenor of his correspondence with her. He was an unquestionable judge of character; and he saw in her that solid worth which he was wishful to improve and direct. By his counsel she was doubtless much benefited. He gave her many valuable instructions connected with her spiritual progress, and with her usefulness to others; and he found in her a docile pupil, who was ever ready both to receive advice, and to reduce it to practice. Long ago have they met in a world where the same kind of teaching is no longer needed, and is therefore neither solicited nor given. Happy they who are accounted worthy of that world, and of the resurrection of

the dead ! Theirs is a state of unmixed and of uninterrupted enjoyment ; for where they are gone, sin and pain and death can never enter.

It was a wise course which Miss Ball pursued, in making it the business of her life to work out her own salvation with fear and trembling. Having believed in Jesus, so as to be justified through faith in his blood, and renewed by the power of the Holy Ghost in the spirit of her mind, it became her great concern, not only to hold fast whereunto she had attained, but to make a constant advancement in personal holiness, and to serve her generation by the will of God. In this state she was found when the great Master called. No lingering attachments to earth, no upbraidings of a guilty conscience, no painful anticipations of future misery, embittered her last moments. The Lord, whom she had long served, cheered her by his presence, and by the prospect of eternal life ; so that she had an easy transition from the bed of sickness to the heavenly paradise ; and her death was lamented by her friends only on their own account. It

left in their minds no alarm on the momentous question of her final blessedness. Thus does the religion of the Lord Jesus gild the present vain and transitory scene of our existence, alleviate the pangs of separation, and prepare mankind to participate in those pleasures which flow at God's right hand for evermore. He is the wisest man who makes the greatest proficiency in this religion; and he is the truest philanthropist who brings the largest number of his race under its saving influence.

THOMAS JACKSON.

London, April 27th, 1839.

MEMOIR
OF
MISS HANNAH BALL.

THE time of my birth was March 13, 1733; blessed with parents that possessed Agur's wish,—“nor with riches crowned, or poverty depressed.”

A family of twelve children, together with many misfortunes, increased those difficulties which unavoidably attend the bringing up of a numerous offspring. All the children, I think, were blessed with a tolerable share of good natural understanding; but this could not equal the advantages of a liberal education.

The want of resignation to moderate circumstances and situation, very frequently betrayed evident marks that pride was my besetting sin. This principle was so manifest, that it proved a source of grief to my mother; and to myself, of frequent and great mortification to little purpose:

“restraint I could not brook.” I now found, as pride increased, my love to and respect for my mother daily abated; but this I cautiously concealed.

When five years old, I was sent to Uxbridge, on a visit to my uncle, Mr. Norwood, where I had every indulgence to feed my vanity. I refused answering to the call of “Hannah;” but to “Miss” I was all attention. Experience confirms the truth of the wise man’s assertion,—that pride with folly is bound up in the hearts of children.

Blessed are those parents and guardians who, in their care and instruction of children, mark with an attentive eye this dangerous passion, and with proper temper apply both reason and revelation to counteract that *deadly disease*. Undue, as well as untimed, correction and reproof often prove ineffectual, and defeat the purpose for which they were designed. “Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, lest they be discouraged.”

On my return from Uxbridge, being asked if I knew a very near relation, I denied having any knowledge of the individual. This false assertion was frequently charged home upon my conscience for many years after. When nine years old, I went to reside with an uncle in High-Wycomb; but various humiliating circumstances

made a remove from thence desirable. Here it was I first received some serious impressions, and felt a desire for prayer: my frequent request was, "Lord, teach me to pray, and make me a great mother in Israel." Although a stranger at that time to the import of my prayer, yet, even then, I have reason to believe the power of the Lord rested upon me; but, like the morning cloud, it soon passed away. By my aunt's request, I retired every evening to read and pray: after a short time it became a pleasing exercise. From my aunt's I went to live with a cousin in Hertfordshire: the care of his family occupied the most of my time for five years. I then availed myself of some justifiable reasons to return to my friends.

In the year 1759 I went to live with my brother. By the death of his wife, the care of four children devolved to me. With much pleasure I have frequently reflected on my unwearied application to promote their every interest; but after all my labours, I could not divest myself of fear that my toil would be repaid with a light sheaf: yet I continued to sow in hope. I had frequent and great distress in my own mind arising from temptations following my evil tempers.

In the year 1762 the Lord greatly alarmed

my fears, in the solemn hour of midnight, by a sudden and violent storm of thunder and lightning. Conscience now roared a loud onset to my trembling soul; and, like the appalled Israelites, I cried, "Let not God speak any more, lest I die." Jehovah, who of old time commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shone into my heart: the dungeon flamed with light. I trembled at death, like a creditor severe, and thought the *last trumpet* was sounding. Scripture declarations came with evidence to my heart: "If ye die in your sins, ye must perish;" for "without holiness no man shall see the Lord." I was crushed beneath the weight of my sins, and the displeasure of an angry God. Unable to bear the face of the Judge of quick and dead, my thoughts were turned to implore the friendship of the rocks and mountains to cover me from the wrath of the Lamb. Horribly caught and compassed round in the midnight of my grief and fear, Mercy, divine Mercy, came to my relief, and graciously disposed me to resign myself up into the hands of the Lord: the boisterous waves of horror and fear subsided at the voice of the Prince of Peace, and there was a great calm! Divine peace flowed into my soul, and I found rest from all my fears! This tranquillity of mind continued for some

time. During several days' illness, patience and peace of mind sweetly supported me to bear, without murmuring, the afflictions of my body. I was a stranger to the nature of that work which God had wrought in my heart: I promised the Lord that if he would restore me to health, I would, by divine assistance, seek true religion; but, ah! how apt are we to forget vows made under the rod of chastisement! Twelve months elapsed before my resolutions were reduced to practice; and even then it was with the utmost reluctance and studied caution I withdrew from my gay companions.

So deceitful and ensnaring are the pleasures of youth, that it requires an exertion of omnipotent grace to dissolve the fascinating charm.

I now began to turn my attention to, and sought the company of, the most serious professors of religion. In these interviews I was much disappointed, and entreated the Lord for direction to a people that worshipped him in spirit and in truth. A people, known by the name of Methodists, were brought to my mind. With displacency I replied, "Lord, I cannot go with them." So great was my aversion to that despised people, I once thought I would as soon go to hell as unite with the followers of John Wesley.

I found prayer, reading, and meditation rendered useful: observing, also, the generality of men were pleasing themselves, more than God, determined my resolutions in favour of a serious life.

About the latter end of the year 1764, I applied closer than ever to reading the Bible. One day, whilst reading Moses's prayer, divine light was communicated in a greater degree than I had ever known before.

When on a visit to a relation, I first saw Mr. Thomas Walsh's Sermons. They were rendered, indeed, quickening and searching to my soul. From *this time* I longed to hear a Methodist Preacher. If their sermons were so powerful, I thought, what must their preaching be? On a visit to an acquaintance, my sister said, the last time she came that way, she found peace with God. I was exceedingly surprised at this relation, and began to doubt the validity of my religion.

Some time after this, Mr. Wesley came to Wycomb. I had now a conflict between desire and aversion. Desire at length so far prevailed, that though I did not attend the preaching at night, yet I went at five in the morning. I was struck with the venerable appearance of Mr. Wesley; but more deeply affected with the

words of his text, which were taken from Matt. xv. 28: "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt."

A few days after, Mr. Hanson preached his farewell sermon. A remark which he made in his discourse, on "the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins," was from that time never erased from my mind. I now clearly saw the necessity of the remission of sins, nor could I ever find rest in my soul till I received that blessing.

The next Preacher that came was Mr. D—. His discourses were rendered very profitable to me, as they clearly opened the way of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. The Saviour of miserable apostate man appeared in my eyes altogether lovely. It was now the hope of salvation, like a fountain of living waters, springing up in my soul. I was enabled to receive Christ in my heart, by loving faith. Instantly I felt as if a tongue of fire sat upon my heart, and healing the wound that sin had made. I was indeed filled "with joy unspeakable and full of glory." This abundant consolation continued for a week, with few intervals of temptation from the powers of darkness.

The Sabbath following I found great darkness of mind all the day. In conversation with my

sister P——, she said, I lived below my privilege: this afforded comfort; for I was afraid of living above it. Tuesday, I awoke in surprise, with the thought that God had left me. This was immediately followed with, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." I received it as an admonition from the Lord, being in expectation of some approaching trial; but this day the evidences of divine faith were so clear and strong that all doubt of my acceptance with God was removed, and I knew my sins were forgiven. With humble and guiltless shame I sunk down at the feet of my kind Deliverer, and in the fulness of my heart laboured to express my thankfulness.

I felt myself poor and mean in my own eyes: I had done nothing to merit such mercy; *the work was of God*; I praised Jehovah that it was of grace.

"In the heavenly Lamb

Thrice happy I am,

And my heart doth rejoice at the sound of his name."

I now found strong confidence in God, that he would watch over and preserve me through this howling wilderness. Class-meetings were made exceedingly profitable: this social conversation on the work of God in the souls of unfeigned believers is calculated to strengthen

Converted June 3 - 1765 age 12

and confirm sincere souls in the grace and love of Jesus; for when they find other Christians exercised with similar crosses, trials, and difficulties, and happily delivered out of them, it is a confirming testimony to the divine record,—“There is no temptation that hath taken you, but such as is common to man; and in every temptation he will make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” In all complex difficulties I have ever found it good to make known my request to God in prayer. Those exercises through which I have passed have rendered me, I hope, more useful to others.

“The well-sung woes may soothe their pensive ghost:
They best can paint them, who have felt them most.”

I began my diary in the year 1766, at which time I was in great exercise of mind, from solicitations and inducements to change my condition in life; but the dispensations of Providence ran across my expectations, and the event has fully evinced that the sacrifice I was then enabled to make, has been recompensed by a hundred-fold reward in this life. After three months' close exercise, I was brought, by divine assistance to resignation's shrine, with, “Father, thy will be done!” From that time I found power to give the Lord all my heart. These

exercises made me feel tenderly ever after for all young beginners in the ways of salvation.

I have frequently thought it a very considerable service done to the church of Christ when experienced Ministers have laid open the fascinating temptations incident to young persons; and also when experienced professors, by first gaining their affection and confidence, and by facts, have given proof of attachment to their real interests, and have thereby preserved many that otherwise might have been borne down by youthful desires, which would have made their return very difficult, and in the event exceedingly hazardous.

“Look gently down, almighty grace,
Prison me round in thine embrace;
Pity the heart that would be thine,
And let thy power my love confine.”

As the Christian's life is made up of crosses as well as comforts, trials and temptations with peace and consolation, Miss Ball was called sometimes to drink deep in the cup of sorrow, which was generally succeeded by joy and love. Those remarkable exercises and deliverances she generally noted in her diary. As these will give by far the best idea of her experience, we shall occasionally insert the most useful parts of them as we go along.

January 15, 1767, having lost a valuable correspondent, she says, "Now let me have more communion with God. Who will dare to interrupt this communion? Often may I hear from my Lord; and often he shall hear from me. Lord, thou knowest what a week of trials and temptations I have passed through: be thou my helper in every trouble. I praise thee, O Lord, for keeping me from despair. It has been the hour and power of darkness; but thou hast again refreshed my soul."

"Sept. 4.—For some days past I have had a close succession of trials, with many fears that I should not endure to the end; but now the Lord is again lifting up my head, by fresh discoveries of Jesus's love, and my faith is greatly strengthened.

"Sept. 29.—In the morning I was much tempted; but was enabled by divine assistance to resist, and the tempter fled. 'Our joys are joys of conquest, not of rest.' Adding prayer to fasting I found useful, even in the midst of close assaults from Satan.

"Dec. 14.—Yesterday the Lord made me to possess the iniquities of my youth: to-day my soul is revived with the love of Jesus.

"February 26, 1768.—My soul has this day been fed with heavenly food. I long to be with

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my Lord; but, O my soul! wait thou his divine appointment; ever breathing, 'Father, thy will be done!' This earth has lost all its charms to me: I only live to do thy will, O my Father and Lord, my Husband, Friend, and Brother! What words are these? The Lord of heaven and earth mine! yea, all he is and has is mine! All I am is too small a return for such profusion of love.

" March 26.—I was much tempted to pride of various sorts; but the hope of being more than conqueror came to my relief.

1765-converted
" June 3.—This day three years I found peace with God; since which time I have not given up my interest in Jesus; *no, not for a moment.* In all my trials and temptations,

'He has kept me to prove
His utmost salvation,
His fulness of love.'

"The Lord shows me my weakness and helplessness. Save me, O Lord, by grace; save me from all dependence but on thyself!"

We are happy to find that while the exercises and temptations, which mark a very considerable part of Miss Ball's experience, served to reduce her to a heart-felt sense of her own weakness and unworthiness, they proved seasonable occasions for magnifying the grace and power of

Jesus, in making way for her to march out of all her difficulties, more than conqueror through Him that loved her.

“Aug. 15.—The breathing language of my soul is, ‘I long for a more intimate acquaintance with God.’ I cannot be satisfied to follow him at a distance. If he hides his face, I have no joyful hours. The following lines are expressive of the spiritual poverty I feel:—

‘My soul, a dry and barren place,
Gasps for the cooling streams of grace:
O might they through the desert roll
Refreshment to my gasping soul!
Jesus, I thirst for thee, *not thine*,
I want the well of life divine:
The well of life divine thou art;
Spring up eternal in my heart.’

“Aug. 17.—I long to be useful the remainder of my days below. My soul ardently desires in prayer, that my sister Ann might obtain the rest enjoyed by the people of God.

“Aug. 20.—Having experienced a gracious deliverance, and enlargement of heart to praise and love God, I feel the greatest pity and sincerest sympathy for all my fellow-creatures, particularly those who are living only on the gay and airy pleasures of this world. O when will they experience joys that are real,—joys that spring from God!

“Aug. 26.—The temptations of Satan are like fiery darts; but the language of my heart is, ‘Make me humble, always disposed to lie at the feet of Jesus.’ Temptations and the light of grace daily convince me I have need of a constant supply of divine aid against my unwearied adversary.”

From her invariable attention to the apostolic precept, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” some of her readers may incline to fear that her views of the plan of salvation were not clear or just. The following remark, it is hoped, will obviate such groundless fears:—

“Sept. 1.—I see, O Lord, if I am saved, it is of *mere grace and favour*. O let this sink deep into my heart! I love to feel it: I long to feel it constantly, that I might apply to thee for shelter.”

There certainly is a great resemblance in the experience of all the children of God; and those who are long exercised in the Christian warfare, pass through such inward conflicts of mind as can be conceived by those only who have felt them.

Sept. 3, she says, “My soul seems as if the fruit of last year were gathered; and my heart is like the ground that wants breaking up, that it might receive fresh seed.”

Miss Ball profited much by the talents of the different Preachers whom she frequently heard. Her remark is,—“The word of God, from the same mouth *frequently delivered*, has not the same effect as when delivered by a fresh one, at least to me.”

Under a deep sense of her own weakness, at this time, she expressed the breathings of her soul thus: “Who can describe the frailty of human nature? But thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether. My silence speaketh unto thee. Save and endue my soul with strength to stand in thy house for ever. Make me of a quick understanding in thy fear, O Lord. Make me a comfort to thy children, in lifting up the hands of such as hang down!”

“Sept. 9.—I bless God for showing me the necessity of constantly seeking him with as much earnestness, as if I had not obtained his favour. My soul feels a calm repose in the merits of Christ for salvation; at the same time entreating his assistance to walk in the narrow path that leads to eternal life.

‘Jesus, my all, to heaven is gone,
He whom I fix my hopes upon :
His track I see, and I’ll pursue
The narrow way till him I view.’”

The work of the Holy Spirit in the souls of

believers agrees with the rule of righteousness revealed in God's word; and when the Spirit reveals his own work, it is attended with light and joy.

“Sept. 18.—I feel the need of supporting grace to enable me to withstand the temptations of the enemy: may thy word be as a light to my feet, and a lantern to my path. I have been blessed with the spirit of hearing. Glory be to God, the hearing ear, as well as the understanding heart, is from him.

“Sept. 23.—I have been somewhat exercised with temptations; but my soul rejoices in them, knowing that all things work together for the best to them that love God. My heart is ready to break forth in praises to Him that sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever. O that this year might be the last of my soul's imprisonment in this house of clay! for I have a longing desire to join the redeemed of the Lord in the regions of endless bliss.

“Sept. 24.—My soul, praise the Lord: speak good of his name, who enables me to rejoice in temptation. Now I know by experience what it is to rejoice evermore, and in every thing to give thanks. I believe my soul has been in this state for some time; but my light was not so clear formerly as it now is. My soul, continue

thou to seek the Lord with all thy strength : thou wilt have no grace to spare in the article of death. Lord, help me to live to thy glory : thou hast said, ' All power in heaven and earth is given to me !'

" How forcibly are these words impressed on my mind, ' They that seek shall find,' and such only ! I am sensible of my privileges, and that if I seek the Lord I shall find him ; for he who cannot lie has promised it. I am therefore resolved to seek him with the whole heart. I grieve for those who deceive themselves with the expectation of receiving the grace of God, without asking for it. May all such be awakened to a sense of their dangerous delusion.

" Sept. 27.—This day I was tempted to vain-glory ; but the Lord kindly interposed with his Spirit's standard, when the enemy came in as a flood."

In a day of sore trial and temptation she was led to say, " Who knoweth the value of faith ? None but those who exercise it to their own profit, and the Redeemer's glory.

" My soul has been of late much stirred up for a spirit of prayer. I cried to the Lord : it was applied to my mind, ' Ask what you will, and it shall be done.'

" I was drawn out to pray for a particular

friend, and for several of the Preachers. My soul is like a place where waters are constantly running. Lord, preserve me from self dependence. I most sensibly feel, if the Lord were to withhold his grace, I should soon become altogether unholy; but I trust he will supply my every want.

“Sept. 28.—This day I hope to begin afresh, and live a life of faith and love; to be given up entirely to the Lord, and feel him all my own. I have received a letter from dear Mr. Wesley, which has very much encouraged my soul. I bless God for counting me worthy to correspond with so good and great a man.*

“Sept. 30.—Another month is now ended. What have I gained? I think, more universal love. I feel my love is increased to Dissenters. If we differ in opinion, Lord, unite us in affection; let our hearts be one with thee; let us be united in Christ, the living Head; our fruit be holiness, and our end everlasting life.”

It is exceedingly common for young converts to measure all their faith by ecstasy, and hastily to conclude every degree of abatement in joy or comfort is a diminution of faith; but time and

* This letter is not to be found amongst Miss Ball's papers.

the experience of God's faithfulness and sufficiency, had taught our friend to gain by the patience of hope.

"Consolations to my soul seem at present to be suspended; and yet I can say, 'Father, thy will be done: only save me from sin, and I will praise thee, though thy comforts be withdrawn.'

"Oct. 4.—My heart is enlarged to pray for myself and others. I long for the Gospel to spread far and wide in the earth, 'that all flesh living may see the salvation of our God.'

"Oct. 5.—This morning I feel the want of that humility of spirit which was in Christ Jesus my Lord. When shall I be transformed into his image! My eyes are up unto thee, O Lord, from whom cometh my help.

"Oct. 7.—I am suffering from bodily weakness: should it be unto death, I have a pleasing prospect beyond the grave. I feel my heart loosened from every earthly tie, and am ready to be offered when my Lord shall call, having a desire to depart, that I may be with Him whom my soul loves."

In the evening she further adds,—“My heart seems ready to weep at the feet of Christ. Let him do with me whatsoever seemeth him good. All is well; for the more I suffer with affliction

here, the sweeter will heaven be to my soul hereafter.

“Oct. 23.—My earnest desire is to live to God in deed and in truth. Lord, enable me to search the secret pages of thy word, that I may grow in grace and spiritual knowledge, and that I may not err on the right hand or the left.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

London, November 12, 1768.

MY DEAR SISTER,

YOU may always direct to me in London, and the letter will be sent to me wherever I am. There is at present a better prospect at Henley than there has been for several years; and I trust you will see more fruit at Wycomb than there has lately been. Stir up the gift of God that is in you! willingly catch all opportunities of warning every one and exhorting every one, if by any means you may save some. Cast off every weight! Beware of every thing that damps or deadens your soul. If you may be free from the cares and entanglements of another state of life, use it rather. Surely you are happier if you so abide. Now you have but one care: keep yourself in the love of God, in his pure love, by growing therein. Rejoice,

pray, give thanks evermore. Cleave closer to Him that loves you ; and, for his sake, love,

My dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

“ Nov. 16.—How tenderly does my heavenly Father watch over and proportion strength to my day ! When I need much, it is given ; so I have no lack. O may I always be kept in a seeking frame of mind !

“ Nov. 25.—I see the need of constant watchfulness, that nothing may come between me and Christ : I am sometimes obliged to retire from company, and call in fresh strength against my formidable foe.”

The grace of God excites in all true believers a holy emulation for the humble mind which shone so eminently in the life of Christ, and which is here exemplified in this part of Miss Ball's experience:—

“ Nov. 30.—I want to feel deeper humility : I want humility enough to bear prosperity, and not to be high minded. I do not feel pride ; but I wish to feel lowliness grounded in my heart. On examination, I find more self-contempt, more of the mind of Christ, and more of that love that suffereth long, and is kind.

‘Thee let me now through faith behold,
And by reflection shine,
’Till nature’s dross is turn’d to gold,
And I am all divine.’

“Dec. 1.—Happy in the love of Jesus, I long to be with Him my soul loves. My heart is disengaged and free: no creature holds me here. How poor their joys whose hearts are tied to earthly things!

“Dec. 23.—Weary with labour, and weak with fasting, I feel a longing for that blissful rest which remains for the people of God.

“Jan. 1, 1769.—My soul is in a measure delivered from a violent temptation that has closely assaulted me. O! what is past experience, but faded joys, if thou, O Lord, hide thy face from me! Shine on thine own work, that I may praise thee, and exhort others to do the same.

“Jan. 9.—My soul is heavily burdened: keep me, gracious Lord, and never let me go; assist me to cast all my care on thee.

“Feb. 4.—In retirement this day I found a fresh supply of grace. The following words were no less pleasing than frequent to my mind:—

‘My life of mercies crown
With a triumphant end.’

“Feb. 5.—My short-comings are truly humbling to me ; but Jehovah-Jesus pardoneth all, without upbraiding. Every moment I feel my need of the atoning blood of Christ ; and, praised be his name ! he ever liveth to make intercession for me, or I could not appear with one offering.”

Miss Ball had great activity of soul, and firmness of mind : steadily attached to truth and sincerity, she abhorred dissimulation ; the prevaricator, as well as the loiterer, felt her faithful reproofs. In some cases her *manner* carried with it the appearance of sharpness. This was named to her by a faithful friend, and she ingenuously remarks : “ I leave upon record that I never have been willingly sharp, but when I thought softer means would not have effected the end. If I have judged wrong, I pray the Lord to forgive and teach me better. It has been my invariable rule, not to talk of people’s faults behind their backs ; but if I spoke of them at all, I preferred doing it to them in person.”

“Feb. 24.—Either poverty or riches expose to great temptations. Agur’s wish has been mine, even when I knew not God. Hitherto hath the Lord granted my request. Some of my friends think I have a very pleasant

abode; but I can willingly leave it to be in glory.

“ March 2.—I this day visited three poor sailors in prison; each of them deprived of a limb, apparently ignorant of the Scriptures, and strangers to the God of their mercies. I pointed them to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.

“ March 3.—My soul was much refreshed by the simple relation a poor woman gave me of her justification. I remembered praying with her and her mother, about eight months before: the purport of my prayer was, that Christ would reveal himself to them. Who knows but this was the answer to that prayer? After many days the seed may appear.

“ March 4.—This has indeed been a sweet day to me; for I have sat in heavenly places with Christ Jesus my Lord. I hope my appointed time will not be long in this vale of tears! O, how I pity those who know not the love of Jesus!

‘ How do they grovel here below,
Fond of these earthly toys!’

“ March 11.— My soul, praise the Lord, speak good of his name; for I feel my soul drawn near to my God. I long to be with him in glory.

'I cannot, I cannot forbear
These passionate longings for home :
O when will my spirit be there?
O when will the messenger come ?

' Away from a world of distress,
Away to the mansions above ;
The heaven of seeing thy face,
The heaven of feeling thy love.'

" O may my will be swallowed up in thy will ! When I have done the work thou, O Lord, hast allotted me, I shall be gathered up to thee.

" March 12.—This morning I heard our new Curate, the Rev. Mr. Williams, preach. I am of Mr. Wesley's opinion : I pity those who imagine they can receive no benefit in attending the means of grace at church. The Lord has bestowed on Mr. Williams gifts to excite the passions and engage the attention. I hope he will prove a burning and shining light in the church of Christ, and win many souls to worship God in spirit and in truth, that he may shine as a star in glory for ever and ever. I frequently pray for him as for my own soul.

" March 29.—I am waiting for my Lord to call me to appear before him in Zion. O pleasing prospect beyond the grave ! ' there I shall see him face to face without a veil between.'

‘O my Beloved, take my soul
Up to thy blest abode;
That face to face I may behold
My Saviour and my God.’

“April 9.—I feel I need the ever-blessed Redeemer in all his offices; no less as a King to save, than a Priest to atone, or a Prophet to teach: I need him to continue every blessing he has already bestowed. For more than a year past I have been enabled to give God my whole heart. I still feel the necessity of earnestly seeking the Lord as much as ever; and the more so as I never saw my weakness as I have done since I entered into this liberty of the children of God. Conscious that I come short in my duty; yet I believe it is more from a defect in understanding than in love.

“April 12.—One thing I hope ever to remember,—always to approach the footstool of my Lord as a child would to a parent, believing and receiving what he so willingly bestows. I want establishing grace to fix me in the Lord’s house for ever; the full assurance of hope; such a confidence of receiving all the promises of Jehovah, as excludes all doubt.

“April 17.—I feel a longing desire for more grace, to have the whole image of God stamped on my soul, and to be persuaded that

all the promises of the Gospel are fulfilled in me.

“April 30.—Of late the Lord has variously tried me: I have drunk of the bitter cup; my will has been crossed, and disappointment has blasted all my favourite schemes. But I can resign all to Him,

‘Whose every act pure blessing is;
Whose paths, unsullied light.’

“May 7.—I rejoice in the company of God’s children. Any other conversation, than that which directly or indirectly leads to God, is to me flat and insipid.

“May 13.—How pleasing the prospect of death! Now his terrors are removed, with joyful anticipation I reflect on the awful summons, ‘Arise, ye dead, and come to judgment!’”

There is a propriety of conduct which ought to be observed by professors of Christianity in every state and station of life, from the Minister of the Gospel, to the meanest servant. Where the true interest of Christ lies near the hearts of his disciples, this line of conduct will be preserved; and while it reflects a lustre on Christians and Christianity, it proves more effectual to the conviction of infidels than the most conclusive reasonings.

Miss Ball seems to have had a just sense of this, as appears by her thus expressing her views:—"The cry of my heart is for wisdom, and a supply of grace, that all my conduct may ornament the Gospel of Christ. I would not verge to any extreme. Wishing to observe a proper respect to superiors, and cautiously to guard against everything that bears marks of severity and stiffened distance to inferiors, I would equally shun that common familiarity which never fails to make one too cheap."

"May 16.—The grace of God I find superior to my present trials.

‘Suffering faith shall brighter glow,
As gold when in the furnace tried.’

"Ever may I be taught to frame all my life and actions according to the will and word of God, believing the copy ought to resemble the original. I value other books, only as they help me to understand the Scriptures.

"I doubt not but we are liable to all kinds of temptation, while here in a state of trial; but when our inward enemies are cast out, Satan can but tempt. By watching unto prayer, we shall not be overcome. One enemy within the walls is worse than an army without.

"Frequently I find *that* in my chamber, which

others lose in wandering about, and who are strangers to set times of retirement. Praised be the Lord, my path is not hid:

‘He marks the road my feet should go,
And is my constant guide.’

“The having it in my power to make another happy has, this evening, been a source of joy to me. O, may I increase in this grace also!

“May 25.—I have this day enjoyed uninterrupted communion with God. Glory be to him: my soul rejoices exceedingly; but I am warned of the approach of trials. Lord, let me not faint in the day of adversity; but enable me to stand steadfast, and endure to the end.

“June 3.—One year more hath the Lord assisted me to walk in his love. Though exceedingly tempted to-day, I count it all joy, as it greatly profits my soul.

“June 19.—As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. O, fill me with thyself, that streams of heavenly devotion may constantly flow from my soul!

“June 25.—I have just read that spiritual desertions may be of more use to some souls than love, joy, and peace. To an ungrateful mind, that can never receive favours without

forgetting to give all the glory to God, they may; but to a thankful mind it is quite the reverse.

“July 7.—Lord, I am grievously tempted. My head is pained, my body weary, my faith tried, and my patience exercised: undertake for me! I give myself to thee, who art able to save. The following words were seasonably applied: ‘In patience possess your soul: let patience have its perfect work.’

“July 8.—I find joy and peace in believing. Bless the Lord, O my soul! I have been much strengthened in prayer for myself and others.

“July 18.—Many painful thoughts have been crowding into my mind: but as they were not invited, or welcome, I believe they are not my sin, but my cross. Lord, help me to bear and do thy will, and to the end endure! I see the command is very broad, which makes the blood of Christ exceedingly precious.

“August 5.—My soul, this day, has enjoyed a solid peace, which temptations, of various sorts, have not been able to move. I want streams of heavenly grace to water my soul, which, unless it be blessed of the Lord, is like a barren desert.

“I am often tempted to question the being of

a God; and, what is more remarkable, this temptation is most frequent, when I enjoy the witnessing spirit of love in my heart.

“O Lord! give me strength to bear whatever thou art pleased, in thy wise providence, to permit: let me be furnished with the whole armour of God, that I may stand in the evil day, and, having done all, may stand.”

Unless humility keeps pace with the whole of our inward and outward conduct, the deceitful heart will unite with Satan, that endless foe of God and man, to divide the glory with Him who hath said, “My glory will I not give unto another.” After much freedom of conversation with some of the children of God, on this subject, she was sorely tempted to think she had done wrong, and was constrained to cry, “O, may I be kept humble at the feet of Jesus! All I do is from thy grace: shall I, therefore, be proud, for being more indebted to the Lord than others? No, Lord, forbid it!”

TO MRS. STONEHILL, WATLINGTON.

“August 25, 1769.

“DEAR SISTER,

“HAVING more than once heard that you were desirous I should write to you, I with pleasure

accede to your wish, in the earnest hope that this will find you in health of body, and prosperity of soul, pressing after holiness, which is the only grace that can make you happy in time and for eternity. I trust your mind is all engaged in the work of the Lord, counting that time mis-spent which is not employed in His service. I have learnt from experience, that visiting my Christian friends is a great assistance in keeping the soul alive to God, and of increasing love one towards another. When you write, exhort me to press onward; for I need being called upon, as the Lord did Moses, to speak to the children of Israel, to go forward; there being no resting-place for us in this vale of tears. I have suffered from bodily affliction; but, blessed be God, I am much better, and hope soon to arise and tread the tempter down: sickness, however, is by no means a gathering time; for Satan strives hard with a weak body. Pray for me, that I faint not, but rather that I may be enabled to go on from strength to strength, until I shall praise God in Zion, and cast my crown at his feet, lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen, Hallelujah!

“I am, with the greatest respect,

“Your affectionate sister,

“H. BALL.”

"Sept. 15.—The witnessing Spirit, both of my justification and sanctification, is satisfactory to myself, although I have many temptations to rob me of comfort; but my confidence is in God.

"Sept. 16.—My soul is kept in peace; yet I feel a constant need of watching against every desire, but what leads to God. O, how easy is it to bring those desires back which were once cast out! but God is able to keep me from falling. I feel power to look to Jesus, and see the tempter fly.

"Sept. 20.—Sudden and impetuous, like the storming of a castle, are the strong assaults of Satan, to make me relinquish my faith, and to conclude, I have deceived myself, and that I have too exalted thoughts of what the Lord hath done for me. I cast myself at the feet of my Lord in prayer: he graciously interposed, rebuked the adversary, and my soul escaped out of that conflict with strength renewed.

'Like Moses' bush, I mount the higher,
And flourish unconsumed in fire.'"

TO THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

"September 26, 1769.

"REV. AND DEAR SIR,

"I RETURN you thanks for another proof of

your care for my soul. I bless my God, he enables me to

‘Trace his example, the world to disdain,
And constantly trample on pleasure and pain.’

“ This morning I found myself as much in need of fresh grace for the soul, as a beggar, of food for the body. Every fresh trial requires a renewal of grace. Blessed be God, that in him all fulness dwells ! I only desire a seeking mind ; for God has promised, ‘ They that seek shall find.’ I have reason to praise God : I find him faithful to his promise ; for he never sends me away empty. I hope soon to have the pleasure of hearing you preach on holiness of heart,—a subject which few relish. May I be more and more convinced of the necessity of present holiness of heart ; and may your words have the desired effect on believers, that they may see and feel the necessity of sanctification. Satan not unfrequently hinders the upright from seeking Christian perfection. I pray God to give you strength to preach this doctrine, as you have hitherto done, to your life’s end.

“ Your affectionate servant,
“ H. BALL.”

TO MISS RAY, COOKHAM, BERKS.

“ September 29, 1769.

“ MY DEAR FRIEND,

“ I FEEL honoured in the favour of your acquaintance: may the blessing of the Lord accompany these few lines. I rejoice to hear that you have found redemption in the blood of Jesus; and hope you can say, from heartfelt experience, ‘ Jesus is mine, and I am his;’ that He has pardoned all your sins, having the witness in yourself that you are born of God; that you are a child of God, and heir of the kingdom. If, however, this is not your experience, be not discouraged: seek, and you shall assuredly find that faith which is the gift of God. Do not be cast down for want of Christian friends: the Lord will find you friends, or be more than friends to you. He hears your every sigh; and every silent wish reaches Him; for he is a God of love, and tender compassion, who draws us with the sweet attractions of his Holy Spirit, that we may run after him. Dare you, my dear friend, forsake all and follow Christ; to be counted the off-scouring of all things, for His sake, who died for you? If so, I congratulate you on your noble resolution. O, to be a child of God, and heir of eternal glory! But we

must remember we cannot serve two masters: if we serve God, we must forsake the world,—its fashions, customs, and vanities; which I trust the Lord will enable you to do. After being convinced I was out of the way, it was more than two years before I made any one acquainted with my troubles,—still living in the ways of the world; striving to be inwardly religious, and not letting any one know it; sinning, and repenting; making resolutions, and breaking them: but I have been since brought to see that these resolutions were made in my own strength, and that I had no strength but what I received from God. At length, when almost driven to despair, my proud heart submitted to go and hear Mr. Wesley preach: his text was, ‘O woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt.’ After hearing this sermon, I was under very strong convictions for five months; and then I found peace to my troubled soul.

“I am your affectionate friend,

“H. BALL.”

TO THE SAME.

“October 18, 1769.

“DEAR SISTER,

“I AM much pleased with the account you give of yourself. Watch and pray; and He that

shall come, will come, and will not tarry. The Lord bless you, and keep you. I shall be glad to see you, to spend a short time with me. Last Monday evening and Tuesday morning I had the happiness to hear the Rev. Mr. Wesley preach at Henley: it was a delightful season to my soul; and would no doubt have proved a blessing both to you and Miss North, had you condescended openly, and with sincerity of heart, to meet the dear despised children of God; who, though poor in this world, are rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom of glory. Be not ashamed to acknowledge those with whom we hope to associate in the regions of eternity: let the choice of Moses be our choice,—rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

“Pray for me, that I faint not. All are frail, but none more so than myself; though I desire to glorify God that he has hitherto sustained me. May you be a burning and a shining light in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Excuse my freedom: the motive is love unfeigned. Adieu: God bless you.

“I am yours in the Lord,

“H. BALL.”

The doctrines of Christian holiness were

the peculiar delight of Miss Ball's soul; and from a conviction of the word, and by the Spirit of Jehovah, she unweariedly pursued after the image of her Lord. What, but divine power, and divine light, could enable her to say,—

“Oct. 29.—I feel my reason and my affections bearing an even balance: the praise I freely give to the Lord; for to him alone it is due, who of a stone, hath raised up a daughter to Abraham.

‘Jesus, my soul takes hold on thee,
I arm me with thy Spirit's might;
Humbly assured of victory,
I underneath thy banner fight.’”

THE REV. J. WESLEY TO MISS H. BALL.

November 5, 1769.

MY DEAR SISTER,

NEED I tell you that I found a particular satisfaction in my late conversations with you? Perhaps you observed such a freedom in my behaviour as I never showed to you before. Indeed it seemed to me, as if I had just recovered a dear friend, whom I had been in fear of losing. But you sweetly relieved me from that fear, and showed me that your heart is as my heart.

Do you still find a clear deliverance from pride, from anger, from your own will, and

from the love of earthly things? Have you an uninterrupted sense of the presence of God, as a loving and gracious Father? Do you find your heart is continually ascending to Him? And are you still enabled in every thing to give thanks? You must expect various trials. We know nature is variable as the wind. But go on. Be never weary of well-doing. In due time you shall reap, if you faint not!

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

The want of memory to retain sermons, has been a very great affliction to many of the children of God; and, no doubt, Satan has taken an occasion to impute it to a defect in grace. Miss Ball complains of this infirmity very frequently in her writings; on which she remarks:

“Nov. 9.—My general rule is, to apply the word as the Preacher goes on with his subject. Sometimes I have thought God permits me to be thus tried, that I might live on Him alone, and experience that the *means of grace* are nothing, *without the God of means.*”

“Nov. 10.—This is a fast-day to my body, but a feast-day to my soul. O, how sweet the love of Jesus!

‘ Words are too mean to speak his worth ;
Too mean to set the Saviour forth.’

“ Happily preserved in the midst of worldly company, with an unusual freedom of spirit and communion with God, who is my keeper and preserver from sin. All praise, all glory be to him !

“ My natural disposition is to please ; but, from the purest principles, I dare not practise what I know would give pleasure to many. Were I less sensible of people’s pleasures and displeasures, I might pass on my way much easier to the heavenly Canaan. It is exceedingly difficult, at all times, to preserve the golden mean ; on the one hand, to avoid that sour leaven, which makes all religion to consist in stern looks, exactness of apparel, with a stiffened, reserved, unsocial carriage, to saints and sinners ; and equally to guard against, and fear more than death, temporising with the spirit of the world. We live in an age when the scandal of the cross is nearly ceased. Not that the men of the world are changed from their principles and maxims ; but professors have been deceived by their courtesy : and, with too great propriety, it may be said of many, ‘ Are you become like us ? ’ ”

Miss Ball could conceive of nothing capable

of effecting an entire change from her natural propensities, but the grace of God. "Naturally of strong passions, excessively fond of the customs and fashions of the world and all things pleasing to the eye, I have frequently thought that persons of a dull phlegmatic composition have not half the temptations to struggle with that others have, whose souls are active as fire."

TO MISS PARKINSON, LONDON.

"November 10, 1769.

"MY DEAR FRIEND,

"PERMIT me to address you with freedom. I think too much formality amongst friends is inconsistent with the Christian character: rather let us, in obedience of the commandment, love one another, with a pure mind fervently. I am apprehensive that you do not love me, and that my admonitions in reference to outward apparel may not have been kindly received. Had I not found these things forbidden, I certainly should not have alluded to them: plainness and neatness of attire are, in my opinion, all that a Christian female should desire to imitate. I have lately had a very delightful time with Mr. Wesley; but, O, what privileges you enjoy, and I trust improve, to the glory of God! I

hope I have an interest in all your prayers, as I am every moment in need of a fresh supply of grace. Accept my love; and let me have a place in your affections, not as a distant acquaintance, but as an intimate friend.

“I am your sincere friend in Christ,
“H. BALL.”

“Nov. 14.—I have been anxiously concerned lest Satan should frustrate the work of God in this place. I find him an unwearied adversary, ever striving to discompose the mind, and allure it from God. This evening I was excited to pray, and to believe the Lord had fresh blessings in store for me, and greater degrees of love, joy, and peace to bestow on me.

“Nov. 15.—Mr. W—— preached last evening from Psalm lxix. 13; and this morning from Ephesians vi. 18, 19. He earnestly enforced the duty of public and private prayer. I found much consolation, knowing that, through the grace of God imparted to me, I had been enabled to practise this important duty. This day it is my painful lot to accompany the remains of my uncle Harding to the grave: I entreat the presence of the Lord to be with me,—

‘That, solemn awe that dares not move,
And all the silent heaven of love,’

may possess my soul. O, give me courage to glorify thy name, that I may enjoy thy presence for ever!

“Nov. 17.—My soul cleaves to my God, who can perform all things for me. I desire to be saved from the cares and entanglements of this life. I feel my heart glow with divine love, and that the Lord is teaching me to live unreservedly to him.

“Nov. 18.—Notwithstanding the rest I enjoy in the love of God, yet I thirst and pant for more: when I awake after thy likeness, O Lord, I shall be satisfied. Save me, O Lord, from surrounding foes. In myself, I am all weakness; but in the Lord I am strong. I remark, whenever I aim to walk closer with God, Satan is more than ordinarily active in tempting.

“Nov. 19.—My desire this day is to live close to God by faith, prayer, and holy meditation. I purpose visiting a sick, unawakened woman: I always feel unqualified for the work. Lord, help me, that thy name may be glorified! In the evening I heard that dear servant of Christ, Mr. Henderson, preach from these words, ‘Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.’ My soul was revived on hearing him; for he was the instrument, in the hands of God, in helping me to go on to perfection.

“ Nov. 20.—I have this day experienced what it is to watch in all things, and have found power to tread Satan under my feet. O, may I increase in this grace!

“ Nov. 23.—This morning I was desirous of a closer union with God. After prayer I found my soul refreshed, and my faith much strengthened; and am encouraged to hope that I shall see better days, and be enabled to walk inwardly close with God.

“ Nov. 24.—I am happy in the love of my dearest Lord. O, how sweet it is to my soul! I eagerly pant for more; ‘so strong the principle divine.’

“ Nov. 27.—My soul has this day been united to Christ, from whom I receive constant strength and spiritual nourishment. Glory be to thee, O God, for a knowledge of my growth in grace! I pray for a settled and truly united society in this place, manifesting love one towards another, with a pure mind fervently; for the enlargement of Christ’s kingdom in the earth; for a blessing on all means adopted for the spread of the everlasting Gospel; on the Preachers in general, and particularly on those whom Providence has graciously set to watch over our souls; for unity, peace, and concord, in the nation; for a blessing on all people dwelling on the face of the earth;

and for myself, that I may be kept near to Thee.

“Nov. 28.—I arose at five o'clock this morning, and met a few friends at brother H——'s, to unite in prayer and praise: I found it a refreshing season from the presence of the Lord.”

TO MRS. GARLAND, WATLINGTON.

“*November 28, 1769.*

“DEAR SISTER,

“I HOPE these few lines will find you in health, and earnestly seeking an interest in Christ. May love abound in your society! We have reason to bless God that it increases with us, insomuch that we seem to be of the family and household of God. My dear friend, watch against a distant spirit; for be assured it proceeds from Satan, who delights to separate chief friends: let us pray for love that suffers long, and is kind; for a meek and quiet spirit, which is in God's sight of great price. My health is improved; and I begin to think my appointed time on earth is not so short as I had anticipated: but perhaps I may have many storms to pass through before I reach that wished for haven of rest. O, pray for me, that I may be faithful unto death. Present my love to M.

Betteridge. I trust the Spirit of God will be her guide, and that he will be her friend when every other fails. Tell her we trust to a broken reed when we confide in anything beneath God. He would have us love him with all our hearts : but then we are commanded to love one another ; and the Scripture says, ' If we love not our brother whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen ? and by this ye know them, because they love one another.' Yesterday I invited three of our poor sisters to spend the evening with me. I cannot express the blessing I have found this interview to my soul : we all felt an increase of love, and of the spirit of prayer. May we love the poor, as well as the rich, for Christ's sake. Present my kind love to my dear sister, Miss North : I hope she will ere long come forth as gold seven times tried in the fire. Inform her that I entertain the encouraging hope the Lord has begun a work in my brother's soul which will end in his sound conversion. I already see the dawns of light breaking forth in his mind. I beg her prayers in his behalf, that he may be convinced of the necessity of justification by faith. This is at present a stumbling-block to him : he believes that religion is a change of heart and life, yet he goes about to establish his own righteousness

and good works; but when he has tried, and finds this all in vain, I believe he will submit. I can converse with him more freely than formerly, and he certainly is less prejudiced against the Methodists. My love to all friends, and particularly to the poor of your flock. Beg of them to pray for the rich. I have written a longer letter than I intended. May the blessing of the Lord accompany it to your soul, is the sincere prayer of, my dearest sister,

“Your very affectionate

“H. BALL.”

Were I only to select the brighter parts of Miss Ball's experience, instead of encouraging, it might prove a stumbling-block to weak believers; but I purpose making as impartial an extract as possible, in justice to her memory, and the Redeemer's interest:—

“Dec. 4.—I this day felt a distant, unloving spirit haunting my soul: but even this gives a fresh gust to prayer.

“I long to walk closer with God, and lovingly to all my fellow-creatures: but the greatest difficulty I find, is with my own household.

“Dec. 7.—I am frequently tempted about the work of sanctification; but I cannot give it up. The Lord grant I never may! The mo-

ments of time pass swiftly away: this is no affliction to me, but rather a joy.

‘ Each day salvation nearer is,
Than when I first believed.’

“ Dec. 15.—I have this day enjoyed sweet peace. Jesus is my beloved; Christ is mine; I feel his Spirit bears witness with my spirit, that I have chosen Mary’s part, which shall never be taken from me. I often beg of God to grant me grace to deny myself things lawful in themselves, so that I might but be rendered the more useful in the church of Christ. Glory be to my God! there is an intercourse opened between my longing soul and him; he does not leave me to feed on husks with swine, but feeds my soul with

‘ More substantial meat;
With such as saints in glory love,
With such as angels eat.’

“ Dec. 16.—Two years ago this night the Lord liberated my soul from inbred foes; and I trust I have thus far held fast my confidence in God, although variously tempted. The fruit of the Spirit has been increasing: peace fills every faculty of my soul, and the Lord honours me with sweet communion with himself.

"Dec. 17.—I have been privileged to hear an excellent sermon from these words: 'There remaineth therefore a rest for the people of God.' I feel grateful that the Lord has enabled me to enter into this rest; that he has caused me to cease from my own works, and trust alone in Christ for all my salvation. I would not, however, be stupidly inactive or idle, but rather strive to enter in at the strait gate.

"Dec. 18.—Never was I more conscious that 'salvation is not of works, lest any man should boast.' If I am eternally saved, it will be of mere grace; and I rejoice to be saved in the way of the Lord's appointing. Who can describe the joy arising from faith in Christ, and a mind fixed on God? Sights, or favours, from friends have the same effect: they drive me nearer to the Lord; and I find him to be all in all to my soul.

"Dec. 21.—This has been a day of weeping and trial; but I trust it shall work together for my good. I want my heart to be filled with love and Christian courage.

"Dec. 25.—A day of painful and gloomy temptations.

'But love can burst the shades of death,
And bear me, from the clouds beneath,
To everlasting day.'

D

end of the Year 1769 - no mention of Sunday Schools
see page 71

“There is a vast difference between the cautious hypocrite and the genuine Christian. The former is an utter stranger to himself; the latter tries the whole of his inward and outward conduct by the word of truth, as in the presence of Jehovah: ‘He that doeth truth cometh to the light.’ John iii. 21. The insincere dissolves when tried in the fire of temptation; the truly gracious soul comes forth as burnished gold,—the fire befriends him, by refining his dross and loosing his bands. Dan. iii. 26.”

TO MISS NORTH, WATLINGTON.

“*January 8, 1770.*

“MY DEAR SISTER,

“I TRUST you are pressing after the love of God. Remember how miserable the foolish virgins were, when they found the wise taken into favour, and themselves eternally shut out. So it will be with every Christless soul in that day of visitation: but those who have parted with all for Christ shall receive all with Christ. I have written two letters to Miss R——, neither of which has she acknowledged: perhaps I was too faithful. Be it so; and I hope I always shall be to all the souls God has in any measure placed under my care. It gives me encourage-

ment to believe, as you bear plain dealing, that you have some grace in the heart; but I fear there is something you do not give up,—some beloved idol that is not parted with. Sure I am, Christ waits to be gracious to your soul; and will you save Barabbas, and crucify Christ? Are not all thieves and robbers who rob Christ of your heart? Indeed, my sister, this is not right: you may pray from morning till night, and yet God will be deaf to your prayers, if you indulge sin in your heart. Inordinate affection is a sin. Excuse my freedom: if I loved you less, I might be less faithful; but I long to see you a living witness of God's power, that you should taste of his redeeming love. The love of God is sweet, surpassing the love of any creature. Take courage, my sister. Pluck out the right eye, if it offend: there will be pleasure in the pain. Now you live a dying life: God's Spirit strives with you, and would make you happy. I never enjoyed such happiness as I have done since I gave God all my heart: give him yours, and He will give you every thing that you need for life and godliness. I am at present happy in the love of Jesus, and think I never lived so near to him as I now do. Pray for me, that I may always abide in Christ my Lord. The waves and storms often go over me; but I think they

settle me the faster on the Rock of Ages. Praise the Lord, O my soul! Praise him, O my sister, for all his love towards us! I hope soon to see you, that we may take sweet counsel together.

“ I am, with the greatest respect,

“ Yours in the Lord,

“ H. BALL.”

Miss Ball's studious care, in the whole of her conduct, was to approve herself of God.

“ Jan. 9, 1770.—My faith is much tried by temptation; but I feel a comfort in God's omniscience. There is not a secret thought that I would hide from him, if it were in my power.

“ Jan. 11.—Having been sorely oppressed by temptation, I long to drink of the streams that make glad the city of God. Surely I may style myself a tempted follower of the Lamb. O may lamb-like patience arm my breast! I longed for a cessation of arms; but that word was seasonably applied, ‘ My grace is sufficient for thee!’ May I ever prove its sufficiency, by keeping me from entering into temptation.”

TO MY SISTER ANN.

"January 11, 1770.

"MY DEAR SISTER,

"I RECEIVED yours with gladness of heart, believing that you wrote in a spirit of love, for which I praise the Lord. I am, however, grieved to hear that you are so low in your mind; but trust it will work together for good, and that Jesus will turn all your mourning into joy. You must believe He is passing by; and faith will break every chain, and set you at full liberty. I think unbelief is your besetting sin. It is a damning sin; but I trust it will be taken from you, and even while your eyes are fixed on these lines. I find Satan strives hard to rob *me* of the shield of faith; but, blessed be the Lord, hitherto I have come off more than conqueror. As we exercise faith, it brighter grows, until, under all circumstances, we can cry, 'Victory, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!' Believe simply, believe constantly; and my life for yours if you are not happy, praising God for all things that men or devils shall invent to discompose your mind. My love to M. S——, and tell her to guard against a reasoning spirit, and to cast all her care on God. Also to A——, and tell her to press forward through the crowd

of difficulties: the Lord has prepared a mansion in glory for her. Bid her be of good cheer; for the poor of this world are heirs of the kingdom. Begging your prayers, that I faint not,

“I remain yours affectionately,

“H. BALL.”

TO MISS CHAPMAN, WATLINGTON, OXON.

“*January 12, 1770.*

“DEAR SISTER,

“I REJOICE on your account. Still press forward; for you know comparatively but little of the love of Jesus. Remember he is the inexhaustible fountain that filleth all. I think I never saw the excellency of believing as I now do: happy they who constantly exercise faith to their own profit and the Redeemer's glory. My faith has been much tried of late: but I can praise God for every trial I have passed through; for they teach me experience, and are profitable to the soul. May the eye of your faith be always fixed on the Captain of your salvation. At the first approach of the enemy, cry to Him for help, that you faint not; for you are engaged in a war with Satan, and you can conquer in no other way than by looking to Him who is the author and finisher of your faith. Cease not to pray for your affectionate sister,

“H. BALL.”

TO THE SAME.

*"February 21, 1770.**"MY DEAR SISTER,*

"TAKE care of mischievous reasonings: trust in God; and remember, what he once gives, he is willing to give always. But expect a succession of trials, and conquer all through Christ. You must fight, or how should you conquer? Be much in earnest, forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those which are before. Read again and again the 13th chapter of St. Paul's 2d Epistle to the Corinthians: compare your experience with it; and probably you will see your short-comings, and the need you have of the atoning blood of Jesus. But do not be discouraged. Christ is at hand, and ready to give greater blessings than you have ever yet received. Let not unworthiness keep you from God: still go, as at first, that you may receive out of his fulness, and grace for grace.

*"I remain yours in the Lord,**"H. BALL."*

"Feb. 24.—The beauties of holiness, which I have not yet attained, were in a lively and striking manner presented to the eye of faith. I have need of more humility: this only can pre-

serve me from dejection in soul-adversity, and self-importance in prosperity.

"Feb. 25.—The love of Jesus is still the prevailing principle in my soul,—a powerful inducement to prayer and watchfulness.

"Feb. 28.—Troublesome thoughts, like teasing flies, are sometimes permitted to exercise my patience; but as they are my cross, it is proper that patience should have its perfect work, both as to the matter and manner my Lord sees meet to appoint or suffer.

"In tracing the footsteps of my great Exemplar, I always find matter for humiliation. I am thankful to God for preserving me more than two years from sinful indulgences. Many temptations have offered; but in the strength of Jehovah I have overcome. As the light of God's gracious Spirit, with his word, clearly discovers the way I should walk in, by the assistance of divine grace the most pleasing snares laid for my feet have been escaped, and hitherto I have borne the cross, going on my way rejoicing."

TO MRS. GARLAND.

"March 5, 1770.

"MY DEAR SISTER,

"ARE you not afraid to give yourself to Christ on his own terms? You desire heaven, and to

be numbered with the righteous here; and you cannot bear the thought of being separated from them in another world; and yet you will not close in with Christ. There is a secret drawing back: the Lord breathes good desires into your heart; but they are not carried by you into full effect. Remember we shall be accountable for every good desire which has not been improved; for they are the gift of God. O, my dear sister, let me exhort you to unite with Christ; for except we are built on the Rock, when the storms come, our building will not stand. How sweet is the love of Jesus! Give yourself to him; keep back nothing: he is a jealous God, and will be loved alone. O come! for all things are ready. Jesus is ready to receive you into his favour. O let not my words be to you like Ezekiel's voice,—very 'pleasant;' but choose Christ, and then you will rejoice my heart. The Lord be with you, and keep you, is the prayer of, my dear sister,

“Your affectionate

“H. BALL.”

“March 6.—There is a beauty in humility I cannot describe. I long to be a pattern of all holiness; filled with the fruits of the Spirit, which shone so bright in my divine Master.

“ March 8.—In a time of ease and peace it is suggested, I shall see war no more ; but I now feel the want of a fresh supply of grace, to prevent my casting away my shield. Truly the Christian’s life is a warfare ; and the potent foes we have to combat, sufficiently prove the need there is of ‘ the whole armour of God.’ In the midst of varied and complex temptations, none have been permitted to enter my heart. I sometimes feel a void, which none can fill but the Deity ; and the prospect of future good gives present ease,—they shall be filled.

‘ I rest upon thy word, the promise is for me.’

“ How various are the works of God in grace as well as nature ! My soul of late has been exceedingly oppressed with trouble, yet at times scarce able to support under the weight of divine love. This is truly a refining furnace.

“ Perhaps one of the greatest rewards Jehovah can confer on his servants here is, to prepare them, by painful trials, for further enjoyment of himself. ‘ Every branch in me that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.’

“ I feel a greater deadness to earthly objects, even when comparatively neglected by the good and wise. This affords me more leisure to seek

my happiness alone in God. I am satisfied he is an unchangeable good.

“The suspension of divine consolation is truly painful: it feels like the first ripe fruit gathered. Many things offer to make me discontented in my station of life; yet still I cry,

‘None but Christ to me be given;
None but Christ in earth or heaven.’

“I esteem it a favour to feel the insufficiency of past experience, whilst my soul cries after God, and is athirst for an increase of all the fruits of the Spirit. I have been much exercised of late with temptations to doubt the being of a God; but I exercise myself more in prayer than reasoning on that subject.”

TO MISS BEDFORD, HEMEL-HEMPSTEAD,
HERTS.

“*March 12, 1770.*

“MY DEAR COUSIN,

“I SUPPOSE you think it long since I wrote to you. It has not been for the want of love, but of knowing what would be useful to you: of this I am sensible, that nothing will be useful without the blessing of God. In your last letter you seem to think that if there are no more Christians than such as know they are born

again, there are but few. Indeed, I do not believe there are any more; for the Scripture says, that 'his Spirit bears witness with our spirits, that we are the children of God.' See what the Assembly's Catechism says on justification:—'Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.' And can we believe anything, and not know it? Suppose a poor sinner, under a deep sense of his guilt, crying to God for forgiveness, and Jehovah speaks peace to his soul,—would he not be sensible of it? Yes; and so much so, that he could sing the song of Isaiah, as recorded in the 12th chapter of his prophecies:—'O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength, and my song; He also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent

things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.' Observe, my cousin, 'in the midst of thee:' Christ within thee, the hope of glory. Except we have the Spirit of Christ, we are none of his. The Lord be with you, and give you a spiritual understanding in all things, is the prayer of, my dear cousin,

"Yours affectionately,

"H. BALL."

"March 24.—Thirty-six years of my life are this day passed over; and with Jacob I may say, 'Few and evil have my days been.' Nearly thirty years spent in vanity and folly. But, O what a day of rest does my soul now enjoy! Words are too mean to set it forth. The Scripture is food, indeed, to my soul; and I dread more a famine of this, than of the bread that perisheth.

"Pride is a many-headed monster, and sometimes appears in the guise of humility; beclouding the mind with Satan's temptations, to warp the understanding, and give a wrong bias to the judgment, unfavourable to God's work in the soul, which, if yielded to, would interrupt and prevent communion with God. But thanks be

to thee, my blessed Lord, for the light which maketh manifest this device, and strength whereby I am enabled to look to my great Instructor in all things.

‘I would not act but in his light,
Nor would I walk but in his might,
Nor think a thought, nor speak a word, without my
Lord.’

“Ministers of the Gospel ought to be highly esteemed for their work’s sake. If any are so unfortunate as to turn aside, or grow weary before their work is done, I mourn in secret, and think I could willingly die rather than that a Preacher of the Gospel should fall from the grace of God.

“For nearly a year past, Satan has variously tried to set me against a very near and intimate friend, with whom I live; but now, I trust, it is all done away. Why should my eye be evil because God is good? Satan, like man in his lapsed state, has sought out many inventions: time and experience are the school for the gaining knowledge of his devices.

“Till now, I have never experienced a temptation to be weary of a dependent state: but this was the sin of fallen angels. I sunk down with shame and reverence at the feet of Jesus, and prayed for humility, deep-grounded humi-

lity. Sweet peace and joy filled my soul. Evermore may I live dependent on Jesus. All our blessings derived by faith, are like Isaac's sons of laughter."

TO A. BETTERIDGE, WATLINGTON.

"*March 24, 1770.*

"MY DEAR SISTER,

"I CONSIDER your situation as being to you a very particular providence: see that you make the best use of the scenes you pass through. You will have the opportunity of witnessing the vanity of high life: take care that none of these things please you. When temptation presents itself, cry to the Lord to save you, and to give you that true nobility of soul that will enable you to look beyond the things of time and sense. Think how glorious it is to be a King's daughter, and to have your name written in the Lamb's book of life. Perhaps you are tempted to say, 'O, if this were my happy case, I should rejoice. But I fear I shall not be accepted: I shall be despised here, and cast out of the Lord's presence, at the great day when he makes up his jewels.' Should you be thus tempted, encounter it with David's words:— 'Why art thou cast down, O my soul; and why art thou so disquieted within me? Hope thou in

God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.' And what shall I say to comfort my friend? I cannot give the waters of consolation: they only belong to God, who is ready to supply your every want. Do you need courage? ask of Him, who giveth liberally and upbraideth not.

'His heart is made of tenderness,
His bowels melt with love.'

"Fear not. Look to the Lord for help. 'Behold,' he says, 'I come quickly; and my reward is with me: hold fast that thou hast, that no man take thy crown.' Look on all the slights you receive from your fellow-servants as a mark of God's love to you, to wean you from all things here below; for indeed they are but vanity and vexation of spirit. 'In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your steps.' Present my love to your mistress: tell her I hope she will not have all her good things in this life, but that she will seek to possess a crown of never-fading glory. May you be a blessing to her! Her soul is precious in the sight of God. O that she was a Dorcas in the church of Christ!—Well, perhaps she may be: the Lord has his ways in the whirlwind. I wish her happiness here, and for ever. Amen.

"H. BALL."

"May 6.—For the last few days my mind has been impressed with the importance of confirmation; and, being myself a member of the Church of England, I feel it is my duty to embrace the approaching opportunity of being confirmed; with the earnest expectation of a blessing on the means, from God my heavenly Father."

TO MY SISTER A. BALL.

"May 12, 1770.

"MY DEAR SISTER,

"I HOPE ere this you are enabled to say you can 'rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, and in every thing give thanks.' Be assured 'this is the will of God concerning you;' and that Jesus is able and willing to do this for you. 'Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.' Give up every beloved idol, the love of the world and all things in it: and, believe me, if this were your happy case, you would find much more sweetness in all things here below than you now do; and it would not hinder you from taking all prudent care in worldly concerns, but rather assist you in them. O, what enemies are Christians to themselves, in being afraid to have the whole mind of Christ, to walk as he walked! May

you earnestly seek the salvation of your soul. Remember, it is the express word of God,—‘Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.’ Of this, I believe, you are convinced; but then why do you not believe? You will say, ‘Faith is the gift of God.’ Truly; but has He not promised, who cannot lie, to give it to every one that asks it; and has said, ‘I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you: a new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh?’ And will you dare to resist the Lord, and say, ‘I will not have this man to reign over me?’ Rather say, ‘Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly, and breathe thy Spirit into my heart.’ I bless the Lord, he is ever doing me good; and I find Satan bruised under my feet. My love to my honoured mother: I hope her soul prospers in the courts of our God; and that, after a long day of toil and trouble, she will reap a joyful harvest. Let us all stand prepared, so that, whether we are summoned at midnight, at the cock’s crowing, or at the morning watch, we may be found with our loins girt, our lamps trimmed, and our lights burning; that when the

Bridegroom comes, we may go with him to the marriage, and sit down with those who have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, where we shall be for ever before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple.

“Your loving and affectionate sister,
“H. BALL.”

“May 15.—I have to-day felt fresh joy spring up in my soul; for I find the Spirit of God resting on our society, convincing the people of the propriety of constantly attending divine service at the parish church, as the most excellent way. Blessed shall they be who do not quench the Spirit by disobedience. I long to see a steadfast society of church-going Methodists regularly commemorating Jesu’s dying love at her altar.

“May 20.—It has been my privilege this day to be confirmed. I found it a blessing to my soul: may it prove useful to me in time to come! I believe the prayer offered up by the Bishop will be answered in my behalf. I am persuaded many members of our society have quenched the Spirit by not submitting to the order of confirmation. I earnestly pray for a fresh confirmation of the work of God in my

heart, that the fruits of the Spirit may be manifested in my life.

TO MISS ANN BOLTON, WITNEY.

" May 28, 1770.

" MY DEAR SISTER,

" I SHOULD be exceedingly glad to hear whether you have a clear witness that you are born of God. If not, never let Him go until He blesses you; for He surely will come, and will not tarry: be assured you cannot seek in vain. The Lord bless you, and keep you, is my earnest prayer. Agreeably to your request, I joyfully proceed to acquaint you with the Lord's dealings with my soul, who am a tempted follower of the blessed Jesus. Glory be to Him! I am not overcome; no, through various storms he gently clears my way, and feeds my soul with food, of which the world knows nothing. All is sweet that comes from my Jesus; I cannot be displeased with His choice: ease or pain, life or death, all are sweet with Jesu's love, which, glory be to his name, I daily taste. If He sends me religious friends, I rejoice; if He withholds them from me, I am content; for I am well satisfied He knows what is best for me, and most for His glory: and if He is glo-

rified, I rejoice. I feel I daily stand in need of fresh grace; and I often think the Lord feeds my soul, in a spiritual sense, with the manna of his love, as he did the children of Israel in the wilderness, day by day; for he gives me my daily bread, and at night I have nothing over: in the morning I am as poor as a beggar. I arise and petition for fresh grace and strength; and I find if I have strong trials, I have strength and grace granted me to encounter them; and if I ever fail, it is for want of looking to the Strong for strength. I never feel satisfied, but as I find my soul on the full stretch for eternal glory. I want to possess a bright crown. The way that leads to it is a suffering way: hitherto I have not shrunk from the cross, when I have clearly seen it was the will of the Lord I should take it up. I have often erred through ignorance; but the desire of my heart is to be all the Lord's. I need your prayers; for there is no one more frail than myself. Blessed be God, although surrounded with temptations, I am free from all entanglements of body and mind. I often long to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better; but my will is swallowed up in the will of God. O, may many be the living witnesses of God's power to save to the uttermost! I have three nieces and a nephew living

with me, who are about to enter on the stage of life to act their parts. O, may they have grace to choose that good part that shall not be taken from them! Pray for them. My love to all Christian friends.

“Your affectionate sister,
“H. BALL.”

“June 3.—A day much to be remembered. Just five years since, the adorable Spirit took possession of my heart, and sweetly subjected my neck to the Redeemer’s yoke; and when I have (without my own inventions) put on his burden alone, it has always been light.

“After hearing a profitable sermon this evening, the adversary, like a lion, was ready to devour me. On my return home, I was strongly tempted to anger. I betook me to the weapon of prayer; but, notwithstanding I looked to the Lord, I am not clear I have not sustained some loss. O, how tender and delicate is the Spirit of God,—always susceptible of the slightest touch of evil consented to in the mind!

“In the public means I was exceedingly exercised to doubt if the Scriptures were of God, and to think them the invention of men.”

This was a blow at the root of her hope. The next step would have been to give up all that

the Spirit had wrought in her soul. "As experience is founded on the word of God, so is the word founded on Him that made all things, and made peace for a rebellious world by the blood of his cross.

'My species up in arms, not one exempt,
Yet for the foulest of the foul He died.'

"I am glad it is written, 'He that believeth shall not make haste.' Satan's devices are sometimes detected by the hurry he strives to raise in my mind. I have frequent and painful conflicts with that unwearied foe: the battle of the warrior is at times with confused noise; but still I find greater is He that is with me than all the powers of hell; and every victory my Lord insures is to me a greater confirmation of his all-sufficient grace.

"I desire to spend the remaining part of my life in a closer walking with God, and in labours of love to my fellow-creatures,—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, instructing a few of the rising generation in the principles of religion, and, in every possible way I am capable, ministering to them that shall be heirs of salvation.*

* Miss Ball was the first person who established a Sunday-school in this town, in the year 1769; which is ren-

“ Mr. T. Eden’s sermons have been rendered not only instructive, but very profitable; and his private conversation no less so, to me and others.

“ Trials and crosses are now become more bearable. O, what love do I see in the various dealings of God with my soul, removing me from one furnace to another, (not as a capricious father who chastiseth a child,) that I may be a partaker of his holiness! I am now better acquainted than ever with the words of Isaiah, ‘ A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.’

“ There are two ways by which our heavenly Father removes our attachment to this present world. First, by mixing pain with all our comforts, that we may be led to seek comfort in Him alone, with whom there is fulness of joy: and, secondly, by admitting us, by faith, to look within the veil, and giving us foretastes of those pleasures which are at his right hand for evermore. When the soul experiences this in-

dered the more remarkable from the fact of her taking nearly fourteen years precedence of Mr. Raikes of Gloucester, the hitherto admitted founder of Sunday-schools, in the year 1783. Miss Ball continued this school for many years; and also met the children every Monday to instruct them in the principles of Christianity, “ earnestly desiring,” as she observes in a letter to Mr. Wesley, “ to promote the interest of the church of Christ.”

dubitable seal, this earnest of the purchased possession, the scale strongly preponderates in favour of 'départing to be with Christ, which is far better.' Where

'The saints in his presence receive
 Their full and eternal reward;
 In Jesus, in heaven they live,
 They reign in the smile of their Lord:
 The flame of angelical love
 Is kindled at Jesus's face;
 And all their enjoyment above
 Consists in the rapturous gaze.'

"There is a strange fascinating power in the creature to draw the soul from, or divide the heart with, the Lord. This kind of temptation is conquered by flight. I am no where safe but in the cleft of the rock. With perfect submission I pray; but I long to trim my wings, and fly to yonder blessed abode. I am strongly solicited by the rulers of darkness to think I am a mere enthusiast in all I do; but a more dangerous temptation, perhaps, is that of letting out my affections too far to the creature."

TO MISS BEDFORD.

"June 9, 1770.

"MY DEAR COUSIN,

"WOULD to God that you might be saved from sin, and your heart made the temple of the

Holy Ghost. In vain do we think to be saved eternally, if we are not saved from sin. As the tree falls, so it lies: and if we die unholy, we must go down to the pit whence there is no redemption. We cannot expect to be holy, unless we are justified; and if we are fully convinced of the necessity thereof, we shall not rest until God speak peace to our souls: knowing that except we have the Spirit of Christ, we are none of His; but possessing this, we shall find rest to our souls. I am grieved to think that professors should plead so much for sin, when the word of God says, 'Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.' O, my dear cousin, seek holiness of heart and life, and then the promises of the Gospel are yours: 'grace, and glory, and no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly.' Choose Christ for your portion here, and then we shall spend an eternity of happiness together in heaven.

"Adieu. God bless you!

"H. BALL."

TO A. BETTERIDGE.

"June 15, 1770.

"MY DEAR SISTER,

"I AM happy to hear you have a desire to

serve God. But do not rest satisfied with mere desires : press onward, that you may enjoy the love of God ; for, as one observes, ‘ hell is paved with good desires.’ Be in earnest ; for ‘ heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.’ Be strong and of a good courage, fully determined to serve God with all your heart. Jesus waits to be gracious, and to give you His love ; but I fear that, like Lot’s wife, you loiter on the plains of religion : you want God and the world. But you must give up one or the other ; for the Lord hates a Laodicean spirit. I am concerned for you ; for I much fear you will neglect the day of your visitation ; and if you do, how dreadful will it be to hear that sentence, ‘ Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels!’ This need not be your case : hell was not designed for you : Christ died to save you from the flames of hell ; and will you remain without an interest in Christ ? Be assured none but those who are washed in his blood can enter into glory. Your acquaintance with the children of God will stand you in no stead unless you are a child of God. If you are desirous to be saved, come out from the world, and be in earnest to cast away ‘ every weight, and the sin that does so easily beset you ; and run with patience the race that is set before

you, looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher of your faith.' And now, my dear friend, I have set life and death before you ; not with the excellency of man's wisdom, but from the teachings of the Spirit of God : and so far as my advice accords with the word of God, carefully follow it. God bless you, and make you a humble Christian, is the prayer of

“ Your very sincere friend,
“ H. BALL.”

TO MISS POTTINGER.

“ *June 15, 1770.*

“ GLORY be to God ! you find in Him all you want. Let us be humble and thankful, but never stand still : having charity for all around, by the grace of God strengthening us, let us strive with rebellious sinners, and invite them to close in with Christ on his terms. O, what a blessing it was that the Lord enabled us to part with all for Him, who is ‘ fairer than the sons of men !’ Let us improve this blessing to the glory of God, remembering that where much is given much is required. Let us seek those whom Satan has turned out of the way ; but, as Mr. Wesley once observed in a letter to me, ‘ Satan will not be wanting to suggest to our minds that we shall

do no good:' but then let us consider, that we shall be rewarded according to our work, not according to the success thereof. Let us be faithful to the grace received, and then there is no doubt we shall experience its increase in our hearts. As to the state of my own soul, I have great reason to praise the Lord who is continually heaping blessings upon me. I feel him to be a satisfying portion: my soul is established in grace, and, I trust, will be as 'Mount Zion, that cannot be moved.' The Lord enables me to pass through many cares, rejoicing before him with reverence. When I lie down, I repose in the arms of Jesus; when I awake, I find my soul in peace, and my body refreshed, having renewed desires to live to God; and thus I go on from day to day, not repining at affliction, but praising God for all things with which I am exercised. Many are the temptations of Satan, and many are the fiery darts he throws at me; but they are all quenched in the blood of Jesus. I am sensible of my weakness; but the Lord hath said, 'My grace is sufficient for thee;' for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather 'glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. When I am weak, then I am strong.'

"It is a sifting time with our society: some

have been read out; and more, I fear, must share the same fate. But this does not discourage me; for I believe the Lord has a people in this place, against whom the gates of hell shall not prevail. I am in hopes we shall have an increasing harvest: we have more outward hearers, and I trust the Lord will persuade some to join with us, who shall be as a city set on a hill. Let us not repine in witnessing the tares among the wheat: we have the cheering promise, that 'the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth, as the waters the channels of the mighty deep.' I beg a continuance of your prayers for me.

"Your affectionate sister in the Gospel,

"H. BALL."

"Aug. 24.—I have profited much under the ministry of Mr. Henderson and Mr. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes has been a laborious man, and rendered useful in this Circuit. He has been truly upright in all things. May his usefulness continue and abound."

It is not unfrequent for Christians of a considerable standing in the church to anticipate happiness or misery, in prospect of a future but untried situation: the former is realized by patient continuance in well-doing; the latter is inevitable to the discontented.

For some years Miss Ball lived with her brother's family, the principal care of which devolved upon her. This, with an apparent disrelish in them to sacred things, made her breathe a wish (but with submission to the divine will) for a removal. She remarks, "Nothing but vanity surrounds me; and my ears are from day to day accosted with scarcely any thing higher than this world. I am in hopes my deliverance draws near; that the Lord will provide me some little peaceful home. I wait to know his will, that I may not run before, but follow, Providence. O that my head were waters, and mine eyes fountains of tears, that I might weep day and night for this unconverted family!"*

Notwithstanding the comfort of the divine Spirit, which is the inseparable companion of a life of faith and devotedness to God, it is evident Miss Ball had, as a true disciple of her Lord, frequently to conflict with the rulers of the darkness of this world.

"Sept. 8.—To-day the mighty power of God preserved me from sinking both in body and mind, having met with close disappointments:

* The editor of the present volume has the pleasing satisfaction to state that all these have since died in "sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life."

my soul sustained them, but my flesh abhorred to bear *the affliction of the mind*.

“Just as I was fainting under the pressure, it was very seasonably applied,—The Lord will lay no more upon me than he will enable me to bear. I remembered Jehovah’s faithfulness, and was strengthened.

“Sept. 12.—The confined circle in which by far the greater portion of our sex move, furnishes us with daily proofs, that a very considerable part of domestic life is passed over agreeably, or very painfully, even with servants, as they are adequate to, agreeable in, and manifest a complacency or displacency while, serving their superiors. After nine years’ faithful servitude to me and all this family, it is with great reluctance I part with my pious maid, M. Rockall. I hope her exemplary piety will render her usefulness more extensive, and her station equally ornamental.

“The whole of the Christian’s life is made up of many parts. Past consolations prepare for future trials; and the more dependent we are upon the arm of Omnipotence, the less shall we be disposed to lean on the bruised reed of mortal man.

“Sept. 24.—There is great need of prayer and patience to sustain present afflictions of body and mind. My faith is variously exercised :

the Lord appears to be fulfilling that promise, 'I will show you what great things you shall suffer for my sake.' Let this cup be removed, or, O my God! let thy grace be sufficient for me. My heart hath said,

'No cross, no suffering, I decline,
Only let all my heart be thine.' "

TO MISS S. BEDFORD.

"November 6, 1770.

"MY DEAR COUSIN,

"PERMIT me once more to tell you, that I believe we are all fallen in Adam, and in Christ alone shall be made alive: Christ must be imparted, and His righteousness imputed to us. Our dead souls must indeed be quickened and made alive to God in this world; for, remember, as death leaves us, judgment will find us: if we die in Christ, we shall go to glory; but if we die out of Christ, we shall be cast into hell. 'Except we are born again, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven:' 'he that lives to God, and works righteousness, shall be accepted of Him.' It is only sin that separates God from the soul; and he that sinneth—that is, he that continueth in sin—shall surely die. In order to our being made fit for heaven, we must first be convinced that we are unfit for it; be truly converted to

God; and the tempers of our mind changed, so that we may be enabled to call God 'Father, with an unwavering tongue.' Perhaps you will say, there are many weak Christians who have doubts and fears. I believe there are: and many who are tempted to disbelieve the work of God on their souls. Yet they walk uprightly before God and man; and if they thus continue, God will give them the full assurance of faith, and his Spirit will so shine into their hearts, as will leave no shadow of doubting. I would by no means discourage any; but O that professors of religion would not rest in the mere form of godliness, and deny the power, that is, the power of saving us from sin! What says St. John? 'Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.' Let the plain words of God be true, and every man a liar. I do not believe every child of God is cleansed from all unrighteousness immediately he is born of God; but it will be effected ere we leave the world. St. Paul says, 'The will of God is our sanctification.' Justification I conceive to be one thing, and sanctification another; but we cannot be sanctified in whole or in part, unless we are first justified; for the word of God says, 'Without faith it is impossible to please God:'

‘and all works, done before justification, have the nature of sin in them.’ I pray that you may be born of God, and that you may not rest without saving faith. Let no man deceive you: ‘he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.’ Read the first Epistle of St. John with prayer. I would also recommend much private prayer to you, as a means to bring the soul near to God. Pray for me,

“Your loving and affectionate cousin,

“H. BALL.”

TO THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

“*December 16, 1770.*”

“REV. AND DEAR SIR,

“I HOPE you do not think me negligent in not replying to your letter ere this. Glory be to God! He has lengthened out my life to this time, and I am still the living monument of His sparing mercy. This day three years the Lord was pleased to set my heart free: a day I desire to remember with thanksgiving to my life’s end. Since Mr. Furze has been here my soul has been built up in God: but before he or you came, I was almost ready to faint through trials, sickness, and temptations; yet not quite overcome,—my head was still kept above water. I never expected to find a smoother path; for

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the Lord applied these words with power to my heart, 'I will show you what great things thou shalt suffer for my sake.' I bless God I can answer every question you proposed. I feel a clear deliverance from pride, anger, and my own will; I have no will but His, and no love but what is placed on Him; and I have an uninterrupted sense of His presence, as more than a loving father. Christ is my husband, and I am his bride; and it is always my care to walk agreeably to so noble an alliance. But I feel a constant need of watchfulness in all things, that I grieve not His Spirit. Our society improves; and I trust we shall be a holy and happy people. The children meet twice a week, every Sunday and Monday. They are a wild little company, but seem willing to be instructed. I labour among them, earnestly desiring to promote the interest of the church of Christ. Begging your prayers,

"I remain,

"Reverend and dear Sir,

Your affectionate servant,

"H. BALL."

TO MARTHA BETTERIDGE, WATLINGTON.

"*January 7, 1771.*

"MY DEAR FRIEND,

"BE in earnest; for a crown of eternal glory

awaits you. Jesus is ready to take you for his bride; nay, he stands at the posts of your doors until his head is wet with the dew of the night, saying, 'Open to me, my sister, my spouse:' and will you be deaf to all his kind entreaties, try his patience, and force him to depart from you? O the patience of God towards sinful worms! Arise, and shake thyself from the sloth which hangs about you, and be determined to use all the means of grace; otherwise you will soon grow cold and indifferent. O set the meek and lowly Jesus before you, as a pattern worthy of imitation. Seek humility with all your heart, and then you shall find rest to your soul.

"Your affectionate sister in the Lord,

"H. BALL."

The deep and invariable regard Miss Ball had to the whole Gospel of Christ manifested itself in her exemplary conduct. She was not dexterous in picking and culling the promises, and leaving the precepts; no, the commands of her Lord were the very joy of her soul. For many years she used to set apart every Friday as a day of fasting and prayer, while her body could bear it; on which she expresses herself thus:—

"Jan. 12, 1771.—This day I found great nearness to, and communion with, God. I still

find fasting rendered a blessed mean to my soul, —a mean almost out of use with professors in general of all descriptions; but is this any reason why it should be neglected? No, not by me; for I never use it but my soul is brought nearer to God.”

Whatever Miss Ball thought conducive to her spiritual prosperity, the glory of God, or the interest of religion, was by her never declined: her fortitude and resolution in these respects were equalled by few: she deemed suffering only as a mean, having experienced its salutary effects. In the hands of her Lord, it was to her profitable.

How much easier would the draught of life go down, and “the waters of Mara” change their bitter quality, could we but believe crosses and afflictions “work out a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!”

“I feel,” she says, “I drink of Christ’s suffering cup. Glory be to him for counting me worthy to be a partaker of his sufferings, as one of his members. It makes me love him the more, trusting, if I am a companion with him in pain, I shall also be a partaker with him in glory. There is a sweetness in suffering I never felt before.”

TO MISS EDEN, BROADMARSTON.

“ January 16, 1771.

“ MY DEAR SISTER,

“ I WAS much rejoiced to see you at Wycomb. I feel a particular love for you, believing that the Lord has given us one spirit: may we ever continue in the love of God. I was for some time kept from giving myself to God; but since I have taken up the cross, and have not been ashamed to be called a Methodist, the Lord has enabled me to walk in the narrow path that leads to eternal life. Previously to this, so terrible did it seem to me to be called by that denomination, that I have thought I could go to hell rather than submit to hear one of their Preachers: but I at length heard Mr. Wesley, and was much encouraged from that time; and have constantly attended their meetings, and found it the savour of life unto life; for the Lord came ‘as a mighty rushing wind,’ spoke peace to my soul, and assured me my sins were all forgiven. The happiness of a Christian consists in living in the will of God, and giving himself up into his hands, and submitting to his divine disposal in all things. May this be our holy resolution, and let it be our desire to grow

in this grace; for there can be no standing still in religion. We are running a race, which implies that there is no time to be idle: let us so run, that we may obtain the prize.

“Your affectionate sister,

“H. BALL.”

It is exceedingly difficult to fix any sense of the evil of sin, or the fear of God, on the minds of children; to open the eyes of the blind, and to turn even children from darkness to light.

In the midst of persons who savour of nothing but the things of the world, it is truly animating to find a follower of Christ saying, “I feel my life hid with Christ in God; and when Christ, who is my life, shall appear, I shall appear with him in glory.”

In the Christian warfare all our graces are sometimes exercised at once, and at others separately. Previous to sharp and close trials an increase of love is given, as a cordial to sustain the cross, and not unfrequently after the storm is over; yet only just sufficient strength to bear up in the midst of the conflict: but in this let us hope; for as the Lord knoweth *how*, so also does he know *when*, to deliver the godly out of temptation.

“Jan. 23.—The will of God is more pleasing to me than my daily food. At times I am strongly tempted to contract the profitable exercise of closet devotion. Rising at five in the morning is a painful task to nature ; but I remember, when this day of painful trial is past, there is an eternal rest reserved for the children of God.

“Trials from professors are very painful, yet frequently rendered profitable, by removing us from the precarious trust on an arm of flesh, to lean on the all-sufficient arm of an omnipotent God : yet I love a friend ; a *Christian friend* I deem a valuable acquisition.

‘Friendship ! ’tis the link that binds,
Unites, and forms the harmony of minds ;
Makes them with sympathizing raptures glow,
Or move like answering unisons in woe.’”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

London, January 24, 1771.

MY DEAR SISTER,

THE sure way is, “by doing and bearing the will of our Lord, we still are preparing to meet our reward.” Go on steadily doing and suffering the holy and acceptable will of God. It pleases him sometimes to let us sow much

seed, before there is any visible fruit. But frequently much grows up on a sudden, at a time, and in a manner, which we least expected. So God confounds human wisdom, and constrains him that glorieth to glory in the Lord.

I am glad the providence of God led you to Wallingford, were it only for the sake of poor Miss H——. She departed from us for a season, that we might receive her again for ever. This should be an encouragement to you to labour with other backsliders. No one is ruined while he is out of hell.

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

“Feb. 11.—A tree that stands a strong tempest, and the Christian that endures temptation, are likely to be established! How comfortable to a pious mind, constantly to feel with our friend, ‘I am content with the approbation of God alone; no anxious cares expose my breast!’

“I live to-day, and take no painful care for to-morrow. God has favoured me with an increase of love.

“Inward and outward exercises make holiness more amiable in my eyes. We are apt, like

Peter, to dictate to our Master for crosses and comforts; but our happiness and safety lie in a uniform observance of his revealed will, leaving the time and manner of all the rest to him.

“Lord, help me to bear up under my present trials, both in body and mind, and make tribulation more lovely to me; for surely it is the highway of holiness.

“This has been a day of weeping before the Lord for more faith, having been on the verge of reasoning myself out of confidence and comfort.

“The powers of darkness are unwearied in exercising their wiles in matters of religion, restless to plunder the Christian of God’s image. Happy and safe are they that meet these rulers of darkness, not as Ephraim met Israel’s foes, and turned back in the day of battle, but as Jehoshaphat: ‘We have no might against this great multitude that cometh against us; but our eyes are unto thee, O Lord.’”

How pleasing to find her emerging from this conflict, with advantage to herself, expressing her thankfulness for what she had passed through, if it might but be rendered beneficial to others, and for having gained some farther knowledge of her own weakness, Satan’s

devices, with an additional proof of God's being a very present help in the time of need!

TO MY SISTER, A. BALL.

"February 13, 1771.

"MY DEAR SISTER,

"I CAN sympathize with you on account of the loss you have sustained in the death of your dear friend, Mrs. Clark. But, remember, your loss is her gain: therefore rejoice for her sake; and, as she is taken out of a troublesome world into a heaven of peace and joy, be like David,—now she is dead, weep no more. You shall 'go to her, but she shall not return to you.' The Lord increases my faith and love, and enlightens my understanding to see that he is love, and that the religion of Jesus Christ is a religion of love. Pray for me, that I may 'stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made me free;' and that I may not again 'be entangled with the yoke of bondage.' That you may be introduced into this glorious liberty, is the earnest prayer of

"Your affectionate sister,

"H. BALL."

The shortest and most effectual method of overcoming temptation is prayer and faith: this Miss Ball found by happy experience. She observes,—

“ March 3.—I watch for thy coming, O Lord, to confound Satan more and more; for I give myself up to thee. Lord, do thou answer for me; determined, through grace, not to reason with Satan, ‘ though in the paths of death I tread.’ ”

Having passed through close, strong, and almost uninterrupted conflicts of soul, the Lord at length graciously lifted her head above her enemies; and favoured her with light and joy; on which she thus remarks:—

“ March 5.—My soul is kept in a solid, calm peace, with a mind stayed upon the Lord. Temptations present themselves, but they do not distress me. All is serene, and my soul rests in God.

“ March 27.—The not distinguishing between temptation and sin, is to many sincere souls the source of various perplexing and painful reasonings.

“ It was in the cloudy and dark day of sore trial that Satan insinuated a question to raise doubt, ‘ If thou be the Son of God?’ No doubt the time, the manner, as well as the degree of

our temptations, are all by the wise permission and disposal of the Lord."

Satan was now permitted to attack her, as a roaring lion, and the accuser of the brethren. The forepart of this day, she says, "I was tempted to think I had the spirit of a devil, instead of the Spirit of Christ. When the force of this fiery temptation abated, I was enabled to pray and pour out my complaint to God, and was comforted. Light and truth dispelled the cloud asunder; my soul was invigorated by the reflection that our Lord, when upon earth, was accused with having a devil. O, what a severe trial was this to me! But, praised be the Lord, my soul is still in peace, and longing for more communion with God."

"April 21.—It is a comfort that 'light and truth is sown for the righteous,' to discover the snares of the devil. My faith is strengthened to go forward in the midst of pressing temptations; and it is strongly insinuated I have entered into them; but I know it is a temptation. Praised be the Lord for making manifest this device also. 'Resist the devil, and he will flee from you,' is the same to-day as yesterday."

Miss Ball's views of the Christian temper and spirit were very just; and her heart breathed a wish to blend the sweet, the amiable meekness

of Jesus, with a firmness of mind not to be moved from the hope of the Gospel.

“ April 23.—I have been preserved happy in the love of God this day :

‘ Not a cloud doth arise, to darken the skies,
Or hide for a moment the Lord from my eyes.’

“ O, what a comfort to be closely united to Jesus, my Lord ! May I ever be kept humble at his feet ! I have no grace in store : I long for a deeper growth in humility, that at length I may obtain a crown of life. I am unworthy of what I feel : but God is love.

“ April 28.—I am thankful my soul has not been entangled in bondage since I was set at liberty : the glory is only due to God, who hath raised up such a monument of his mercy.”

TO MISS S. BEDFORD.

“ *May 4, 1771.*

“ MY DEAR COUSIN,

“ I HOPE these lines will find you in health, as they leave me, with the exception of a cold. What is the body in comparison with the soul, which will be happy or miserable to all eternity ? May we experience that divine change here, that we may dwell together ‘ where the wicked

shall cease from troubling, and our weary souls shall for ever be at rest.' O what fools shall we be, if we are not prepared to meet our God! Let us seek, ask, and knock at mercy's gate, until our Lord shall sanctify body, soul, and spirit! How sweet is the love of Jesus to my soul! I envy not the gay their delights; their laughter is madness, their folly is vain: but my joys spring from God, the fountain of happiness, and are substantial and divine.

“Your affectionate cousin,

“H. BALL.”

There is nothing that can prevent the followers of Christ from glorying in themselves, equal to a proper knowledge of the economy of salvation, and realizing views of Christ by faith. May the following sentiment be engraven, as with the point of a diamond, on every reader's heart!

She writes, “May 13.—I have felt such a deep sense of my weakness and unworthiness, that I clearly discover, if I am eternally saved, it must be entirely through what Christ has done for me, and the holiness he hath wrought in me, and not for the sake of good works. If it were not for Christ, I must eternally perish; but, glory be to Him! he is such a Saviour as I

need. O for a stronger faith in Jesus! My soul lies humbled at his feet, to think I do him no more worthy service."

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Brecknock, August 14, 1771.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I AM glad you remain at Wycomb. That is undoubtedly your place: you have there a large field of action to exercise all the grace and gifts which God has given you. See that you be zealous for God. Redeem the time; and in due time you shall reap, if you faint not.

The great point is, to retain what we have received. You have need, by every possible means, to watch over your sister and your mother, lest they lose what God has wrought. Hardly three in five of those that are either justified or sanctified keep the gift of God a year to an end. So much the more exhort them to watch and pray, that they enter not into temptation. I love you the better, because you love dear Miss H——. Peace be with your spirits!

I am your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

Miss Ball writes to Mr. Wesley, requesting an exposition of Ephesians iv. 30 ; which elicited the following reply.

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

October 4, 1771.

MY DEAR SISTER,

THE being "sealed by the Spirit," in the full sense of the word, I take to imply two things : first, the receiving the whole image of God, the whole mind which was in Christ ; as the wax receives the whole impression of the seal, when it is strongly and properly applied : secondly, the full assurance of hope, or a clear and permanent confidence of being with God in glory. Either of these may be given (and sometimes is, though not frequently) separate from the other. When both are joined together, then I believe they constitute that seal of the Spirit. But even this admits of various degrees. A degree of it, I trust, you have. Watch and pray ! Do and suffer the whole will of Him that calleth you ; and He will supply whatever is wanting.

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

TO MISS NORTH.

*"October 30, 1771.**"MY DEAR SISTER,*

"I HAVE been afraid you would think it long ere I wrote to you; but unavoidable circumstances have prevented me. Be persuaded that Christ is more ready to receive you, than you are to accept of his offered mercy. Let me entreat you to cast yourself upon him. My soul mourns for the Christless, especially Christless professors. Lord, help them to believe in thee, and to forsake their sins! My fellowship with the blessed Trinity increases. O, why will you feed on husks, when you might be fed with the finest of the wheat, and honey out of the rocks? I am glad to hear that God has caused some among you to believe: may you be the next for whom the waters shall be troubled, that you may by faith step in; and then you shall come out like the eunuch, and go your way rejoicing.

*"Your affectionate sister, in Jesus,**"H. BALL."*

"Jan. 2, 1772.—The Lord is humbling me: how low wilt thou lay me yet? It is what I have longed and prayed for. O, may I not be discouraged when the Lord answers my prayer!

“ After speaking freely to a Christian friend, of close temptations, I was greatly exercised in mind, and wept much before the Lord. In this trial came, very opportunely, a letter from my invaluable friend M. Rockall, which was a word in season.”

The tenderness of Miss Ball's mind manifested itself by a review of her conduct in little matters.

“ Feb. 4.—Many temptations offered to-day ; but I have been assisted to follow the voice of my Shepherd. Satan attends me in many duties, frequently tempting me to think I have acted wrong in various concerns of the day ; but this I feel,—Jesus is with me.

“ Feb. 25.—I exceedingly rejoice that my sister Ann has obtained the love that casteth out fear which hath torment. Her very face bespoke her happiness of mind, and the praises of God. I felt a solid joy rest on my own soul. By the conversation I this day had with my mother, I cannot doubt her enjoying the liberty of the children of God.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

London, February 21, 1772.

MY DEAR SISTER,

You have indeed reason to be thankful that

God has at length turned the captivity of his people ; and your Preachers have good encouragement to be zealous for God, since they see the fruit of their labours. On Monday se'nnight I expect one of them, at least, will meet me at Newbury. How happy you are, who have none of those dissensions, which have torn that poor society in pieces ! Pray that you may all continue of one mind, striving together for the hope of the Gospel, and inviting all to press after full salvation.

My dear sister,
Your ever affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

TO THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.*

“ Wycomb, February 19, 1772.

“ REV. SIR,

“ GLORY be to God ! my soul is disengaged and free, and I feel myself every moment ready to be offered up. Not that I think the time of my departure is at hand : no, I believe I have much to do before my work is fully done. I find his grace sufficient for me this day, and I

* This and the following letter, with trifling alterations, were published in the *Arminian Magazine*, vol. viii., pp. 223, 278.

believe for to-morrow also. Hence no anxious care arises in my breast.

“I feel more power to live to God than ever. I believe he has given me the full assurance of hope; a confidence of receiving all his promises. I trust, nothing shall separate me from his love, either in time, or in eternity. Yet I feel the need of watching unto prayer. I find as much need as ever to use the means of grace, feeling that I want watering every moment, that I may have strength to go forward.

“Blessed be God, his work prospers in this place. I believe the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and that the wilderness will soon become a fruitful field, to the honour and praise of God.

“I hope, Rev. Sir, you will always remember in your prayers, your most unworthy friend and servant,

“H. BALL.”

TO THE SAME.

“*Wycomb, May 12, 1772.*

“REV. SIR,

“SINCE I saw you last, I have been called to suffer the will of God in several respects. However, he has been graciously pleased to give me strength to stand my ground.

“Subsequently to my late sickness Mr. W. called on me: our conversation was of a more general character than I desired. After a time, he seemed to intimate that he thought I was not what he expected to find me. I was tempted to despair, while he talked with me. But I durst not complain, lest I should show a want of patience. Since then, though I have walked more in the spirit of true religion, yet I feel the need I have of being watered every moment, and of using all the means of grace, as ever. But I have not been able to fast so often this winter as I have done before. But I am thankful when I can use that ordinance, as I always find it a great blessing.

“Upon the whole, I desire nothing, but to do and suffer the will of God: and I believe I was never so well prepared to suffer as I am at present; seeing I am more saved from softness of spirit, which has formerly often hurt both my body and soul.

“As in obedience to you, I have troubled you with these lines, I hope you will favour me with your advice and prayers; and believe me to remain,

“Rev. Sir,

“Your friend and servant,

“H. BALL.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Sunderland, May 30, 1772.

MY DEAR SISTER,

Do you not remember that fine remark in the Christian Instructions, "Nothing is more profitable to the soul, than to be censured for a good action, which we have done with a single eye?" Mr. H., then, may have profited you more than you thought. O, it is a blessed thing to suffer in a good cause! I was never more struck than with a picture of a man lying upon straw, with this inscription, "The true effigy of Francis Xavier, the apostle of the Indies, forsaken of all men, and dying in a cottage." Here was a martyrdom, I had almost said, more glorious than that of St. Paul, or St. Peter! O woman, remember the faith! Happy are you to whom it is given, both to do and to suffer the will of God! It is by this means that He will confirm your soul against too great sensibility. It is then only too great, when it hurts the body, or unfits you for some part of your duty. Otherwise it is a blessed thing to sorrow after a godly sort.

Whatever you read in the life of Mr. de Renty, and Gregory Lopez, or the experience

of E. J., is for you. Christ is ready! all is ready! take it by simple faith!

I am, my dear sister,
Your affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

July 1.—Miss Ball writes to Mr. Wesley, in consequence of doubts having arisen in her mind as to her experience; and requesting an interpretation of Rev. iii. 12.

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Bradford, July 7, 1772.

MY DEAR SISTER,

FROM what has lately occurred, you may learn a good lesson,—not to build your faith on a single text of Scripture; and much less on a particular sense of it. Whether this text be interpreted in one or the other way, the work of God in your soul is the same. Beware, therefore, of supposing that you are mistaken in the substance of your experience, because you may be mistaken with regard to the meaning of a particular scripture. Pray; and observe that God himself may, and frequently does, apply a scripture to the heart (either in justifying or sanctifying a soul) in what is not its direct meaning. Allowing, then, that the pas-

sage mentioned, directly refers to heaven, yet this would be no manner of proof that you were deceived as to that work of God which was wrought in your soul, when it was applied to you in another meaning.

My dear sister, adieu!

J. WESLEY.

“July 31.—The beauties of holiness are more than usual open to the eye of faith after some severe trials. Exercises and temptations are a balance to aspiring thoughts. I love the Lord, from an experimental sense of his love to me.

“Aug. 9.—My soul is in peace; but still I long to be filled with Deity. A holy fear is my constant attendant: that temptation may not wound my soul, that I am kept, is by the Almighty power and goodness of God. I am thankful for a constant conviction that all my salvation, from the beginning to the end, is the free unmerited gift of God. Repentance, holy mourning, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grace to seek perfect love, and eternal glory, are all freely given to us of God, as the purchase of the blood of Christ. I feel a vehement desire to stand, as an iron pillar, strong. Is not this also of the Lord? O, may deep humility cover all!

“Aug. 14.—This has been a year of instructive experience, which the Lord has mercifully brought me through. It is no less pleasing than profitable to review the merciful dealings of the Lord, in extricating me from many temptations and devices of Satan, and preventing me from falling into his snares. Sweet has been the consolation I have enjoyed in God and his love. Refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord, have greatly encouraged me to urge on my way to the Canaan of everlasting rest. More health of body, peace amongst relations, restoration of religious friends, favour in the sight of the children of God:—time fails to recount the mercies of my Lord.

“Aug. 23.—Of late, in close exercises, I have been like some heirs to estates, obliged to prove my title. I adverted to a passage some time since, sealed upon my heart by the Holy Spirit: ‘All is yours.’ Now was my heart fully disposed to do or suffer the will of my heavenly Father. I did not think highly of myself, but humbly of my attainments. As many a good estate has been spent in law, so by reasoning with Satan I might have lost my evidence for glory; but, through divine aid, I was enabled to raise the shield of faith, and repel his fiery darts.

“Sept. 9.—I never felt the work of God so deep in my soul as of late. I have now a more general command and easier government of my thoughts, words, and actions. I feel that the least unkind thought pains my soul. Surely the Lord is able to keep that which I have committed unto him. My faith is tried: Lord, undertake for me.”

The critical observers in the church of Christ are sometimes more liberal in their censures of the active spirits of those who are laying out all their strength of body and mind for the glory of God, than zealous to imitate them. Miss Ball remarks: “This week I have passed through many inward sufferings. O, what joy ought it to be to me! for surely if there had been a better way to heaven than suffering, Christ would have shown it by word and example. I do praise him in the trying hour.”

TO MISS A. KENTISH, WATFORD, HERTS.

“*September 23, 1772.*

“MY DEAR COUSIN,

“THE disappointment of not seeing you is one motive for my now writing to you. I hope your affliction is sanctified: the Lord knows what is best, and will lay no more on you than He will enable you to bear; and in taking such

as are most dear to you, he will supply their place, and more than make up their loss. Do not repine, nor grieve overmuch: it will only depress your spirits, impair your health, and render you unfit to grapple with the difficulties of life. Seek earnestly for a closer union and communion with Christ. Remember, it is through much tribulation that you must enter the kingdom: but be not dismayed; for the Lord will be with you: the water of adversity shall not overflow you, neither shall the fire of temptation consume you. Pour out your soul before the Lord in secret: He will put underneath you his everlasting arms, and sustain you. I am, in much love,

“Your affectionate cousin,

“H. BALL.”

“Sept. 27.—Satan seems to be not yet without hope that I shall so love the creature, as in part to decline in love to God: but I have to believe the reverse. This day I felt perfect resignation for my future life to be disposed of as the wisdom of my God sees best, either in a married or a single state. I have no decided choice. To me it does not appear advisable to shrink from the former, if God can be thereby most glorified.

‘Strange fires far from my soul remove;
My every act, word, thought be love.’

“In the midst of close and trying temptations, thou, Lord, who knowest all things, knowest that I love thee with all my heart. If it will be for thy glory, and my advantage, that I should be sharply assaulted with these hellish darts, Father, thy will be done. But, O Lord! if it be thy will, let this cup pass from me; and what I feel this day, may I feel no more for ever.

“I am now taught not to depend on any blessings received at any particular time; but to preserve an holy dependence on God for constant supplies of spiritual nourishment. Thus I trust to abide on Him till

‘I reach the joys above,
And taste the pleasures there.’

“April 8, 1773.—Of late the Lord has graciously increased my little stock of love: what was once as a parting stream, is now like Jordan’s flood. I enjoy much greater peace and stronger faith; the light of heaven shines on my path; and I know my works are wrought of God.

“By the warning of the Spirit, and of friends, I am apprehensive of a dangerous snare, though

at a distance ; but the cry of my soul is, ' O that I may live before thee, O Lord ! and let thine arm rule for me.'

' O that I may walk with God !
Jesus, my companion be ;
Lead me to thy blest abode,
Through the fire, and through the sea.'

" In the midst of much opposition, I find the presence of God supporting me. Trials stir me up to frequent fervent prayer, that I may stand unmoved in all the ways of the Lord.

' No earthly charms my soul shall move
From the blest object of my love.' "

TO THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.*

" Wycomb, May 4, 1773.

" REV. SIR,

" I FIND much reason to praise God, who loads me with his benefits. Prosperity and adversity are much the same to me ; my soul being not overmuch grieved at the one, nor lifted up by the other. Death, of late, seems at a great distance ; but in this my will is so swallowed up in the will of God, that I cannot choose either life or death.

* This letter was published in the *Arminian Magazine*, vol. ix., p. 339.

“ The week after Easter I was informed that a man in this town, whose name is Charles Dean, was thought to be near death ; and, as he was a very wicked man, I determined to go and see him. Accordingly I went, and spoke freely to him concerning the state of his soul. I had not said much, before I observed tears fall from his eyes. He told me he believed he had the hardest heart of any man alive. I was very glad to hear this, and said it was a blessing that he felt it to be so. On asking him if I should go to prayer, he did not seem willing : but I told him I should not be long ; and so prayed, and went away. Going again the Monday following, and finding he was putting off repentance, in hopes of being better in health, I endeavoured to show him Satan’s device in this ; and persuaded him to seek the Lord *now*. Accordingly, he began from that time to seek in good earnest. The next night I went to see him again, and found that God had given him a broken heart. I then went to prayer, and left him. The following morning I found he was not satisfied with what he had received, but wanted an entire change of heart. On Wednesday morning, the 28th, his wife found peace to her soul, and is now very happy in the Lord. Seeing her sister stand by, I told her, we must not leave her

behind. On this she began to weep. I then encouraged her to believe. She cried out, 'Lord, I believe: help my unbelief!'

"The next day, Dean sending for me, I called on him: he seized my hand in an agony of distress. I engaged in prayer, and he prayed with me for some time. I then stopped, and let him pray by himself. When he concluded, I began again; and in less than half-an-hour his soul was set at liberty. When I went home, he sent for a man from his work to tell him what God had done for his soul. Thus he continued all that and the two following days, exhorting all to repent, and seek that change of heart which God had given him. He also sent for the Curate to give him the sacrament: but the Curate thought he was not sensible; for he told him what a blessed change he had found. The Curate said it was a good thing; but would not give him the sacrament until he was more composed. I then persuaded my brother to go and see him. I believe it had a contrary effect on his mind; for he wept much when he was with him; and ever since, when he has talked about him, the tears stand in his eyes. Last night his joy was somewhat abated, but his peace was still the same; and he said, if it was the will of God, he would rather depart, and be with

Christ; but yet was quite resigned to God's will. As to his wife and sister, they grow happier and happier daily. Glory be to God for this great work!

“H. BALL.”

“June 3.—Seven years ago, to-day, I found peace with God; and, praised be my divine Preserver, to this time I have enjoyed a constant witness of my acceptance; and my soul still hungers, Lord! for thee. It is a source of inexpressible grief, to reflect on the apparent distance of some relations from the life and enjoyment of genuine piety.

“Aug. 22.—None but God and myself know what a week of temptations I have passed through. I cannot express the number or strength of Satan's assaults; but still am preserved a monument of God's abundant mercy and saving power.

‘Thus is every faithful soul
As gold and silver tried,
Purged by grief, and purged by pain,
And seven times purified.
But all who stand the fiery test,
Receive thine image from above;
Bear the favourite name imprest,
The favourite name of love.’”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Bristol, September 1, 1773.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I WAS glad you had an opportunity of spending a few days in London; and also that you were not ashamed to declare what God had done for your soul. This is the way, not only to receive an increase of grace yourself, but likewise to impart it to others. Even this kind of simplicity, the speaking artlessly, as little children, just what we feel in our hearts, without any reasoning what people will think or say, is of great use to the soul. I hope you will be able to speak to Mr. Saunderson, without the least reserve. He has tasted of the pure love of God, and should be encouraged to hold it fast. But I wonder a little how some of our friends at Witney come to take exception to honest ———. He is an Israelite indeed: not much polished; but serious, solid, and sensible. I preferred him before two or three young men, (who offered for Oxfordshire,) because I have seen the proof of him.

I am, my dear sister,

Yours affectionately,

J. WESLEY.

FROM THE SAME.

London, November 18, 1773.

MY DEAR SISTER,

You never did anything to disoblige me yet, nor anything (that I remember) I wished undone. At all hazards you should prevent any misunderstanding between Mr. S—— and brother W——. The best way is for them to talk calmly and freely together, and reason the matter over. Then I think both of them will agree to what shall appear best upon the whole.

Those fears are not from Him that calleth you. Give no place to them, any further than as they stir you up to prayer. A *trying* time there may be, and yet a *growing* time: this we frequently find. You should in anywise speak freely to Mr. Saunderson, and tell him whatever you think or fear. Discipline must be kept up; only I would make an exception with regard to that gentlewoman you mention. Be more and more zealous and active for God!

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

“ March 14, 1774.—Temptations crowd thick upon me ; yet I enjoy an uninterrupted peace. Lord, do I still need such painful monitors to quicken my dulness ? I am but a beggar at thy feet, and every moment need thy help.

‘ When broken spirits dwell in dust,
The God of grace is nigh.’

“ In passing through evil and good report, I desire not to be puffed up by the one, nor depressed by the other, while it is written, ‘ My grace is sufficient for thee.’

“ The company of the ungodly is of a leavening nature. I can with ease relinquish their society ; and yet by hastily avoiding that contagion, I feel a danger no less fatal, but more delusive, in cleaving to the creature. This makes me cry mightily to the Lord : let all my affections and passions be under thy control, and all engaged for God.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Liverpool, April 12, 1774.

MY DEAR SISTER,

WHEN it pleases God to take any of his children to himself, especially those that have been eminent in his service, he usually sends

a gracious rain upon the survivors. And He has not done yet. You are to expect more and more instances of his love, and of his power to save unto the uttermost.

I hope you will have many opportunities of conversing with J. B——; and that you will speak to him with all freedom. He is plain and downright. Warn him gently, not to speak too fast, or too loud; and tell him, if he does not preach strongly and explicitly concerning perfection. Go on, in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Warn every one, as you have opportunity, and exhort every one, that you may present every one perfect in Christ Jesus.

I am, my dear sister,
Your affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

“June 3.—It is now eight years since I first found the favour of God, and have never lost a sense of his love.

“Perhaps it may be something singular, that I am more closely assaulted with temptations under preaching, than at other times. To hear without this interruption would be a pleasure; but submission here is good.

“At present I am saved from an inordinate

attachment to persons or things, and desire nothing in competition with the love of God. My soul breathes for a fresh supply of faith and love."

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Sunderland, June 19, 1774.

MY DEAR SISTER,

IT is next to impossible to retain salvation from sin, without having a clear witness of it: especially in time of temptation; they who then lose the witness, commonly lose the blessing itself.

When you can spare a day or two to visit any of the neighbouring societies, it will be a labour well bestowed. You will always find it a blessing to your own soul, as it is a means of quickening and strengthening others.

Sometimes I have been a little afraid for my dear A. B—. If she is more engaged than she used to be in temporal things, and less in spiritual, she must be something more than human, or she will suffer loss: her soul will be flattened thereby. I am afraid lest she should sink into that delicate species of spiritual sloth, which some call "ceasing from our own works." I wish she would write more frequently, either

to me or to you. It might be profitable to her. She *has been* as a mother in Israel: pity she should ever be less useful.

I left Mr. Saunderson behind me in Scotland, but expect to see him at the Conference.

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

FROM THE SAME.

Bristol, August 12, 1774.

MY DEAR SISTER,

YOUR letters are always pleasing to me, as is the writer of them. I hope Mr. Harmer's preaching in the church will have many good effects. He will prepare the way for brother Wolfe, and his two fellow-labourers; all alive to God, simple of heart, and of one heart and mind, without any jarring string. And I suppose, by the addition of a third Preacher, you will have a Travelling Preacher every other Sunday. You will love sister Wolfe: she is an amiable creature, and has done good to the children here. We have made a little beginning for poor brother W——, which I hope will be some encouragement for others. Walk in the narrowest path of the narrow way, and

the Spirit of glory and of Christ shall rest upon you.

I am, my very dear sister,

Yours affectionately,

J. WESLEY.

TO MISS NORTH.

“ January 13, 1775.

“ MY DEAR SISTER,

“ I AM encouraged to write to you again; and allow me to ask, Have you yet been enabled to burst asunder the chains of unbelief? Can you say, ‘ My Lord and my God ?’ Is the veil rent from your heart; and can you behold Jesus as your Saviour? If not, you are still in an awful situation; for dying unconverted, you die an eternal death. But I will hope better things, and things that accompany salvation. That I may soon rejoice over your new-born soul, is the prayer of

“ Your affectionate sister,

“ H. BALL.”

“ Feb. 8, 1775.—After praying with some children, which I meet every Sabbath-day, to instruct in the principles of Christianity, I was grievously tempted that I had given my

heart to the creature ; but upon examination, when or in what, I found it proceeded from the father of lies. My desires are unto God, to be his only ; and by divine assistance I feel resolved to believe till rooted in the knowledge and love of God.

“ Feb. 17.—My soul was much refreshed in visiting a poor woman with five small children, and a sixth hourly expected : and yet her only attendant in this situation was her affectionate husband, whose small earnings were the support of the whole family. I found the woman happy and composed in her mind, willing to live or die. O, what can equal the support which religion gives to the soul in an hour of affliction ?”

The grace of God gives a singularly tender conscience. This faithful recorder of our actions remonstrates for every deviation from truth. Miss Ball was made to feel keenly for a prevaricating word.

“ I was,” says she, “ deeply humbled before the Lord for it : the Lord was gracious in healing my afflicted mind. May patience have its perfect work !”

“ Feb. 18.—I have received, I trust, an increase of patience : my soul rests in God. To the end I may improve in his knowledge, I

read, write, and pray; hear the word preached; converse with the people of God; fast, or use abstinence; together with every prudential help, as channels only, for receiving the grace of God: but private prayer is in general the most strengthening mean of all.

“ I rejoice to hear that M. R——’s youngest sister has found peace and happiness in God. This is the fifth sister of that family who has been converted to God in less than a year; and one brother-in-law, who is entered into his Master’s joy.”

They who follow Christ shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. By the happy experience of this truth, Miss Ball became well skilled in the devices of Satan, and could distinguish between being tempted, and yielding to the temptation.

“ March 4.—By a train of thoughts this morning, which tended to pride, if indulged, I was led to cry earnestly to the Lord for deeper humility, and found an encouraging answer. Amidst frequent attacks from my unwearied foes, the Lord’s Spirit lifted up a standard, and their proud waves were stayed. The praise is only due to my ever-faithful Preserver, who keeps me all his own; although there is no discharge from this war of temptation whilst here below.

“ March 21.—The infirmities of body depress my spirits. I have been tempted to yield to indolence and inactivity in the service of my God: I am, however, cheered in the anticipation that ere long ‘ this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, and death shall be swallowed up of life.’

“ March 26.—I awoke this morning with these words on my mind, ‘ The Lord only is my support;’ and they were refreshing to my soul. He appeared ready to help in every time of need. For some time past I have felt a determination to seek comfort only in God; and, if it were his will I should not be favoured with this, I would seek for grace to be satisfied *in his will*.

“ April 7.—This day has been set apart by me for fasting and prayer. My soul has experienced a replenishment of divine grace. It is my earnest desire, so long as I live, to breathe out my soul in praise to Him who has bestowed on me so many gifts.

“ April 16.—Lord’s-day morning, Mr. Wolfe preached from these words, ‘ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above.’ My faith was strengthened, and I felt encouragement to press towards the mark for the

prize ; and to believe that Christ would feed his flock. I afterwards commemorated the death of Christ at our parish church, and found it good to be there.

“I esteem it a privilege to be a member of the Church of England, and desire to be kept in her doctrines faithful unto death.

“ April 17.—Yesterday Jesus, according to his promise, fed his flock. My soul seemed to be brought into a wealthy place. I now feel my spirit rests in God, and I enjoy a peace passing understanding. Glory be to ‘Immanuel, God with us,’ for bringing me into a land of rest and peace! My peace is as a river, and my righteousness as the waves of the sea.

“ April 20.—I feel a confidence in God, that Satan cannot disturb. I pray to be ever on my guard in all things; for I am still in an enemy’s country.

“ April 22.—My soul is tranquil, desiring to go forward in God’s way, and from nature’s every path to retreat.

“ April 30.—I am now the Lord’s prisoner in affliction. All is well: my soul is very happy in the love of Jesus, who does not disdain to visit a worm in retirement. Glory be to Him! my cup runneth over. O, my

Jesus, keep me as thou wouldst have me to be in all things !

“ May 4.—In the meeting of the children, one, about fourteen years of age, said she had found the love of Jesus shed abroad in her heart.”

TO C. P.—.

“ *May 22, 1775.*

“ MY DEAR SISTER,

“ WHEN I read your letter, I thought you were at the threshold of happiness. Venture on Jesus as your complete Saviour. Live now ; enjoy the present moment ; for Satan would tempt you to delay, and keep you in painful uncertainty. Fight the good fight of faith, until you attain the celestial city. I long that your soul may be set at liberty. Jesus, give thy servant power to love thee with all her heart ! Plead with the Lord for grace to believe that now is the accepted time, and that now the gate of mercy stands open for you ! I feel an unshaken confidence that my Lord and Saviour will keep me in the hour of temptation. My dear sister, there is a heaven of peace to be enjoyed below. I cannot describe the happiness I possess in holding close communion with the

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: they teach me to despise all worldly felicity, and encourage me to help forward the children of the Most High in their way to Mount Zion. I hope you will not forget to pray for me.

“H. BALL.”

“May 24.—Again I find my unwearied adversary strong to make me doubt the existence of a God; but am enabled to hold fast my confidence in the Lord. Were I to reason with that cunning enemy, perplexing thoughts would soon follow.

“In prayer and silent adoration, I with joy worship the Three-One Jehovah.

“June 2. — For nine years past, I have enjoyed much of the life-giving presence of my Lord and Saviour, and have found strength proportioned to my day.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Leeds, July 28, 1775.

MY DEAR SISTER,

UNDOUBTEDLY that is our calling, to stand fast in glorious liberty, whatever God is pleased to give or take away. We may feel, and yet resign, like the Marquis de Renty, when he

apprehended his wife was dying. And this is a proof, not of want of affection, but of such an affection as is well-pleasing to God.

You will have need now to use double diligence, to stir up the gift of God in those who have been hindered from attending his word, lest they should be faint in their mind.

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

“Aug. 9.—I never enjoyed more of the divine presence, nor ever saw myself in greater danger of departing from God. I am all weakness; but my trust is in the arm of Jehovah.

“Aug. 31.—My soul is more than ever established on the Rock of Agès. Forgetting those things which are behind, I press forward to obtain all purchased and promised blessings.

“Sept. 1.—This evening died Mrs. Love, having enjoyed for several weeks a comfortable sense of God's forgiving love. Patient in suffering, her conversation and countenance were expressive of the tranquil peace her soul possessed, before she entered into the joy of her Lord. This is the second person to whom the Lord has made my private conversation profitable: to Him alone be all the glory!

“Sept. 19.—Temptations fly thick about me as bees, now I am deprived of bodily health; but all my care is cast on God. I could thankfully leave this ‘vale of woe:’ nothing shakes my calm, uninterrupted assurance of being with my Lord in glory.

‘I languish and long to be there,
Where Jesus has fix’d his abode:
O, when shall we meet in the air,
And fly to the mountain of God?’

“Nov. 1.—This day I have received a cheerful frame of mind, and a measure of freedom from temptation; yet, on various accounts, I see cause for humiliation of soul. I long to glorify God more, to serve him better, and to set the Lord always before me. I much need Christ in all his offices; and pray to be enabled to cast my soul upon him with all my weaknesses and infirmities.

“Nov. 21.—Miss Fuller, who was last evening under great distress of soul, is now happy in the love of Jesus. ‘We all partake the common bliss, and glory to the Lord is given.’

“Nov. 22.—Blessed be God for the many opportunities afforded me of waiting on him publicly and privately! I desire a stronger persuasion that I shall dwell with Jesus and his holy angels for ever.

“ Nov. 23.—My longing desire is still to receive the seal of the Spirit, that I may at all times enjoy a permanent assurance of being with God in glory everlasting. O my God, let thy holy Spirit accomplish this work in my heart!

“ Nov. 25.—The love of God has been poured afresh into my heart. I am impressed my time will not yet come for me to be united with Jesus and his holy angels. May my will be swallowed up in God's will, that, living or dying, I may be his.

“ Dec. 1.—Last evening, my sister Ann believed to the salvation of her soul.

“ Dec. 13.—For several days I have been much comforted in reading the Psalms; and particularly with the following words, as being the experience of my soul: ‘One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.’

‘O may my spirit daily rise
On wings of faith above the skies;
Till death shall make my last remove,
To dwell for ever with my love.’

“ Dec. 31.—I earnestly desire an increase of the fruits of the Spirit, and, in ending the year,

to lie at the feet of Jesus my Lord, relying on him alone for a renewal of strength. Since I first united with the Wesleyan Methodists, how many happy seasons I have enjoyed! O wondrous grace! O boundless love! May I continue faithful until death: then shall I receive a crown of life. And, in closing my diary for the year, I would praise my God for all that is past, and trust him for all that is to come. Hallelujah! Amen."

TO MISS OLLIFF.

"January 6, 1776.

"MY DEAR SISTER,

"I REJOICE that you find your strength equal to your day: let us continue to seek a more intimate acquaintance with the Source of blessedness; for there is enough in Him to satisfy our longing souls. Let us often land our thoughts in the glorious mansions of bliss, that we may, with an eye of faith, behold the rapturous throng going forth with ecstatic joy, praising their God, who has redeemed them from all iniquity, and made them kings and priests unto God and the Lamb. O my dear sister, I trust you and I shall, after a few more rising and setting suns, be admitted to bear a part in the song for ever new! In the mean

time let us be diligent in the ways of God, that our crown may shine with a bright lustre; not that we shall be rewarded *for* our works, but *according* to them.

“I am your affectionate sister in Christ,

“H. BALL.”

“Jan. 19, 1776.—Temptations press close and thick upon me; but I feel a secret power to resist them. Guard and defend me, O Lord, that temptations enter not into my heart! Diligence and active employment in daily concerns is to me an admirable preservative from many temptations.

“Feb. 16.—Every Friday I set apart as a day of fasting and prayer. This painful task to nature is more than compensated by the divine communications of love to my soul. O transporting thought, to be for ever with the Lord! I long to meditate more on those divine glories which the soul shall be ravished with to all eternity.

“June 3.—I am in much pain of body; my spirits are brought low, and nature recoils at the bitter cup of affliction; yet, though sorrowful, I do rejoice, and adore the infinite wisdom of God for all his dispensations, believing that the most painful will work for my good. I long

to behold Him whom my soul loves. O for near communion with, and conformity to, my Lord!

“I think my experience runs like a slow but deepening stream. I want more of that tender love to the weak of Christ’s flock, that will bear with their infirmities. In a good measure I can say,—

‘I feel my warmest passions dead
To all that earth can boast;
This soul of mine was never made
For vanity and dust.’

“July 2.—Upon a strict examination, I trust I do advance in the divine life, but feel the need of growing in the *strength of grace*; that neither persons nor things may be able to move me from my Centre and Rock.

“I truly wish to walk before the Lord, in as perfect a manner as it is my privilege; and always to do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

“Oct. 1.—Having been much oppressed for two days with successive and various temptations, this afternoon my soul feels like Samson, when the cords were broken with which he was bound. It is the Lord that delivers me from surrounding foes.

“Oct. 3.—In retirement to-day, I found such

nearness to the glorified throng before the throne, as I never before experienced. I long for greater conformity to my Lord in holiness, that I may be capable of fellowship with him in his glory.

“ Nov. 1.—In a close attack of the enemy to discouragement, faith and reason came to my aid, with a fixed resolution not to yield so long as I can obtain strength to resist. The result of this combat was an increase of divine consolation.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

London, November 30, 1776.

MY DEAR SISTER,

Some By the account you give, about a fourth-part of those near you that were saved from sin, stand fast, after a trial of several years, in that glorious liberty. Of those who received the blessing here, in 1762 and 1763, I fear we have hardly a sixth-part that have not been moved from their steadfastness. Whereas out of two-and-twenty who received it in Bristol, seventeen or eighteen, I think, retain it to this day.

I should imagine, most of those who have the advice and example of Mr. Valton would be in earnest: I mean, if he is of the same spirit he

used to be ; and I hope he does not go backward, but forward. But there is something in the increase and decrease of the work of God among a people which all our wisdom cannot account for. However, we are to go on ! we cannot stand still, or turn back. There is the prize before us.

I am, my dear Hannah,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

“ Dec. 17.—It is now nine years since, by divine grace, I was enabled to give my whole heart to the Lord ; since which time, Satan, or any intruding idol, has not been permitted to enter. Not unto me, but to Jehovah Jesus, be the glory ascribed ! It is by grace I am preserved ; and every moment, Lord, I need the merit of thy death. I long to increase in all Christian knowledge and virtue.

“ Dec. 21.—How diversified are Satan’s temptations ! At one time a crowd of worldly thoughts would pour in, to create solicitude and anxiety ; then, the excellencies and qualifications of persons, painted strongly on the imagination, to render them desirable, and intended by Satan to rival the Lord. If these fail, he will reverse his plan, and tempt to dis-

content and impatience in my present situation or circumstances. What wonder, if a more eligible situation be marked out by the grand deceiver, who availed himself of the Lord's low estate in the wilderness, to present to his mind the kingdoms of the world, and the glories of them. Thus has my soul been exercised for some days past; but the Lord discovers the tempter in his approach. I am preserved watching unto prayer; and Satan is bruised under my feet.

“Jan. 1, 1777.—The preciousness of faith was this morning realized to my soul. May I be assisted to exercise it constantly for myself and others! I long for a fresh manifestation of the Three-One Jehovah. In private prayer I have sore conflicts: Satan strives to prevent my pouring out all my complaints to the Lord; but vain is the expectation of help from any other. I want renewed visits of divine love. Alas! what are all external forms, without close union with God? ‘Seek, and ye shall find,’ is a fresh spring to my soul.

“How trifling are the small differences of opinion which have obtained in the church of Christ, to souls who are seeking to be renewed in righteousness and true holiness! I this day had sweet fellowship with one whose views can by no means extend so far as the merits and

love of Christ to all the apostate race of Adam. However, I find fellowship with all those who contend for a new creation.

“Jan. 15.—My soul is led out in earnest prayer in behalf of Mr. B., lately an attentive hearer at our place of worship. May he be a doer of God’s will, and eternally saved!”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Bristol, March 13, 1777.

MY DEAR SISTER,

It seems, the time is come, that you are to have a more commodious preaching-house at High-Wycomb. I will give you a plan of the building myself; and employ whom you please to build. But I hope to see you on Wednesday, the 26th instant, and to preach about six in the evening, after preaching at noon in Oxford. Peace be with your spirit! I am

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

“March 15.—I have great heaviness of mind, and oft sore travail of soul, for my brothers and relations. I pour out my heart to God in their behalf; and long to be more useful in serving my generation according to the will of God.

“March 24.—I am this day forty-three years

old. As years increase, may I grow more wise and gracious.

“Mr. Valton has been an indefatigable Minister in this Circuit, and rendered useful to many: his instructions in private, as well as public, have been much owned of the Lord.

“Mrs. Hauks’s pious conversation has been made very useful to me. I have great fellowship with that good woman. She had an enlarged soul to serve the interests of her Lord and Master.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

June 11, 1777.

MY DEAR SISTER,

FROM the many unforeseen hinderances you have met with, it does, indeed, seem reasonable to infer that God’s time is not yet fully come. It is your present business to tarry the Lord’s leisure. When his time is come, that He will work, then who shall hinder?

I have lately made diligent inquiry into the experience of many that are perfected in love. And I find a very few of them who have had a clear revelation of the several Persons in the ever-blessed Trinity. It therefore appears, that this is by no means a sure trial to Christian perfection. All that is necessarily implied therein,

*Perfect
Love.*

is humble, gentle, patient love; love regulating all the tempers, and governing all the words and actions. I am,

My dear sister,
Your affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

“Aug. 7.—The cheering beams of Jesus’s love, after painful exercises and trials, resemble the shining sun on the weary traveller, after a dark and cloudy day.

“Sept. 6.—From exercises, for a fortnight past, I have a kind of fever: but in earnest prayer at a throne of grace, the Lord was entreated, and sent me help out of Zion. I can now offer the grateful sacrifices of praise. ‘Where shall I his praise begin?’

“Nov. 9.—I had this day a most blessed but indescribable impression on my soul, of the Three-One Jehovah, all equal in deity; while these words flowed from my heart, ‘The Lord, he is the God.’

“Nov. 12.—I now see the folly of declining the cross in little things: little crosses, when patiently borne, make up in number, what they want in weight. I am humbled at my Lord’s feet, desiring grace equal to my every future trial.

“Jan. 10, 1778.—I long for closer communion with Christ; with saints on earth, and saints in heaven.

“It is my delight to be diligent in temporal, as well as spiritual, matters; serving with careful Martha’s hands, but humble Mary’s heart.

“The prosperity of Zion lies near my heart: I find great assistance from the Lord, in praying for the increase of Zion’s converts, amongst all sects and parties that seek and serve the Lord Christ.

“March 2.—I have been sorely tempted to think I shall not enjoy so much of God in future life, as in seasons that are past. I doubt not but this device of Satan is intended to weaken my present confidence in God, when deprived of public opportunities of waiting on him. This is my cross, not my choice. I make a virtue of necessity, and seize a private moment for recollection and prayer.

‘Where can such sweetness dwell,
As I have found in God?’

“May 24.—By renouncing all strength and dependence on myself, I find the Lord my wisdom and might. The force of that truth I sensibly feel, ‘Without me ye can do nothing.’ All acceptable obedience must flow from a principle of loving faith.

“May 29.—Blessed be God! I still feel his unspeakable love in my heart; and am encouraged to trust him as my very present helper in every time of need. O that God would return to his vineyard, and cause the fruits of righteousness to be brought forth in their season!

“July 11.—I see and feel my calling is,—a deeper acquaintance with the God of grace, that I may stand against future assaults. I long to study the word of God, as one searching for hidden treasure.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

December 2, 1778.

MY DEAR SISTER,

LITTLE things contrary to our wills, may be great blessings. We have need to apply the general word, “Take up thy cross, and follow me,” to a thousand little particulars,—a smoky room, a cold morning, a rainy day, the dulness or perverseness of those we are with:—these, and innumerable little crosses, will help us onward to the kingdom. But the most profitable of all crosses to your own soul may be, the unfaithfulness or unfruitfulness of your sisters; without one or other of which, they never could have lost any blessing which God

had given them. Nothing can exercise, and therefore increase, your faith and love, like the seeming to spend all your strength for nought. O, how this increases, my dear Hannah, my love to you! How much more does it increase His love for whom you labour!

We do not thoroughly understand the meaning of that word, "The times and seasons God hath reserved in his own power." Undoubtedly He has wise reasons for pouring out his Spirit at one time rather than another; but they lie abundantly too deep for human understanding to fathom. To us He says, "What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter!"

I am, my dear Hannah,
Your affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

"Jan. 23, 1779.—This day my dear mother went to Abraham's bosom, rejoicing in God her Saviour, having lived seventy-nine years and some months in this vale of tears. It was an unspeakable consolation to her surviving children, when standing around her bed, to hear her utter Jacob's dying confession of faith, 'I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord.'

"Feb. 18.—The little society in this town,

having passed through much persecution and great interruption in their public devotions, by a Mr. J——'s frequently beating a drum during the whole hour of meeting, Providence has at length pointed out a convenient situation for erecting a chapel. Mr. B—t—g, after handsomely subscribing to the building, generously undertook the superintending the whole work, till it was completed. 'This labour of love will not be unnoticed by the Lord.'

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

London, February 24, 1779.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I AM in great hopes that the manner of your mother's death, together with her dying exhortations, will make a deep and lasting impression, on some (at least) of her children. B. T. did well to make a full use of so solemn an occasion. It is not improbable that, from this very time, a good work may commence, which, if you build a large and commodious chapel, will greatly and swiftly increase. I advise you, whenever you build, to build exactly on the model of our new chapel; only reducing the dimensions, perhaps, from eighty by sixty, to fifty or sixty by forty feet, according as your ground will allow.

Surely He will withhold from us no manner of thing that is good. I am, my dear sister,
Your affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

“April 6.—By weakness of body my spirits have been much depressed. It was strongly suggested, that my soul was dead to God; but I trusted in Him who is almighty, and was not confounded.”

TO THE REV. S. WELLS.

“*April, 1779.*

“DEAR SIR,

“I HAVE lately had a mournful time to pass through. My dear mother departed this life on the 23d of January last. Shortly before her death she repeatedly expressed a longing desire to depart and be with Christ; crying out, with the Apostle, ‘O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?’ &c. As she approached nearer home, these longings abundantly increased: she was indeed a pattern of patience, never complaining of suffering, but bearing up under all with entire resignation to the will of God. It was delightful to witness the power of true religion in her soul. One day she said to a friend, that she loved her children, but God more than all. She died

ing. Some of her last words were, 'When good old Jacob had blessed his children, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and died: so, Lord, let me die! for Jacob's God is my God;' and then said, 'A few more groans,' and died. She was a woman of a truly catholic spirit, loving the image of Christ wherever she found it. Her death to me was a mixture of sorrow and joy: of sorrow, to lose such a friend; and of joy, to think she was safely landed in a much better place. Her funeral sermon was preached from Simeon's song, and, I trust, blessed to many.

"Your very sincere friend,

"H. BALL."

"May 18.—I have been three weeks confined with the small-pox. When I first knew it was that disorder, I felt no fear, but rather a joy, in hope it was the Master's call to arise and depart, for ever to be with the Lord! Soon after, I was permitted to be sorely buffeted by the enemy. In this assault, I said, 'Where will this conflict end? in heaven, or in hell?' I felt an unshaken peace in my soul, and the Lord soon appeared in my behalf; the clouds were scattered, and a delightful joy succeeded the tempest.

"June 5.—Although I have no rival of my

heart, yet, unless I am kept by the power of the Lord, I shall presently sink down in desiring some person or thing to make me happy. I have frequently found, after solemn dedication of myself to God, strong temptations have followed to try the sincerity of my love to the Lord. Who can describe the influential power of strong temptation?

Aug. 22.—I have been closely pressed, by a temptation with which I was exercised eight years ago. When the affections are concerned, it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish whether the temptation be from one's self, or Satan. My prayer is, 'Lord, let me see thy will; nor suffer me to take a step, but for thy glory and my furtherance in holiness!' It is sometimes a difficult point to distinguish between a natural love, and that which is purely spiritual: happy is it for those who can so preserve their nearest attachments, as not to rob the Lord of his glory.

"Sept. 12. — Trials and temptations have been the portion of my cup for this week past; but the joy I have now in communion with God, more than compensates for all. I am still as poor as a beggar. I love always to come as a dependent creature, to God's all-sufficiency: the most painful trial I feel from outward occur-

rences is, the being slighted by professors. I want calmness to be united with courage."

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

London, October 23, 1779.

MY DEAR SISTER,

TO-MORROW night I am to set out for Norwich; and this little tour will take me up a fortnight. At my return, I have appointed to visit the classes, which requires a fortnight more. I see no possibility, then, of my opening the House, unless I steal away from them for a few hours. I care not for labour; but I want time. This, then, with God's help, I will do. On Tuesday noon, November 9th, I will steal away to Wycomb, preach at five in the evening, and then return to London. So I can go on with the classes at six on Wednesday morning.

If the Preachers and Leaders strongly exhort the believers to go on to perfection, then the entire work of God will prosper among you: otherwise it will languish.

I am, my dear Hannah,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

"Nov. 11.—The Rev. John Wesley opened our new chapel, by preaching on, 'We preach

Christ crucified; unto the Jews a stumbling-block,' &c., &c. On this occasion we had a crowded and genteel audience. My heart's desire and prayer to God is, that this neat and convenient house, erected to Jehovah's glory, may be an everlasting blessing to the town of Wycomb.

" Nov. 15.—Satan, by artful reasonings, would draw a veil of darkness over my mind, and lead me to question the sincerity of my experience in the work of grace. Thank God, I feel a vigour of spirit to press forward to more of the divine presence.

" Dec. 5.—A letter is come to hand, which informs me of Mr. S. Wells's death; a man for whom I had the highest esteem and regard. His public labours and private conversation were rendered exceedingly useful to many, and much owned of God to my furtherance in the divine life. He was near to me as my own soul; but the Lord can preserve in the most painful trials. I have, in the course of my pilgrimage, derived the best experience from the most painful occurrences.

" There is no state of life but needs much grace, and no real happiness but what comes from God. A single life is a self-denying life. One day, meditating on what would constitute a

person's happiness that had escaped the incidental allurements of youth, it was powerfully applied to my mind, 'The grace of God, and nothing else.' I have ever found it true. Jesus is all and in all to the believing soul; and where He is, there is no want of comfort; to insure which we must always have this conviction, 'that it is by grace we stand.'

"The sharpest trials are followed with the sweetest tastes of divine consolation. Rest assured, ye heirs of Christ, that however the prospect of your earthly comfort is now eclipsed or circumscribed, soon, very soon, will the Bridegroom's voice be heard: 'Where I am, there my servants shall be, that they may behold my glory.'

"Dec. 11.—I was to-day as on Pisgah's top, and *more* than viewed the promised land. Love, divine love, so flamed on the altar of my heart, that not a passion dared to move while thus surrounded with God. These prospects are truly animating after seasons of sore trial."

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Dorking, February 17, 1780.

MY DEAR SISTER,

THERE is nothing strange in a particular

union of spirit between two persons who truly fear God. It is not at all uncommon: within few years, I have known many instances of the kind; and I see not any reason why this union should be destroyed by death: I cannot conceive it is. I have myself, since her death, found a wonderful union of spirit with Fanny Cooper; and have sometimes suddenly looked on one or the other side, not knowing whether I should not see her. So you may remember Mr. de Renty says to his friends, "To die is not to be lost: our union with each other shall hereafter be more complete than it can be here." And I have heard my mother say, that she had many times been "as sensible of the presence of the spirit of my grandfather, as she could have been if she had seen him standing before her face."

So Mr. Hawes is gone: I hope in peace!
Let us also be ready!

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

"April —, 1780.—In the garden of Gethsemane, as well as on Mount Tabor, the disciples of Jesus may say, 'It is good for us to be here.'

“ May 2.—The latter part of last week, I was variously tempted to fear my soul was not in a prosperous state. In this cloudy day, I was for a time utterly at a loss to know whether it was a temptation, or really the case ; yet, conscious I had not departed from my God, I refused to relinquish my shield, notwithstanding the discouraging suggestion bore hard against me. In a short time afterwards the clouds were dispersed, and a cheerful day broke upon my soul. ‘ Joy is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.’

“ Dec. 6.—I was called to visit a woman whom the Lord had brought, in the furnace of affliction, to a sense of her sins, and a clear discovery of his pardoning love. She died rejoicing in God her Saviour.

“ Christ’s flock is small, compared with the bulk of mankind that know not God ; yet even of these, very few, it is to be feared, see and seek fully the good things which God hath prepared for them on this side heaven ; such as communion with the Father and Son ; the divine Spirit, as a fountain of living water ; the pure love of God, which casts out slavish fear ; and for the soul to be kept in perfect peace, by a constant reliance on the Lord for fresh supplies of grace.

“Nov. 27.—I have sweet peace, and am warned of approaching danger. May I ever attend my Shepherd’s voice, take up my cross, and follow the Lord whithersoever he shall lead. The breathing desire of my soul is for closer union with my Lord. I feel communion with my Redeemer; yea, at this time, with the three-one Jehovah, I feel the witness strong and clear, and strength to seek the Lord.

“Jan. 2, 1781.—It is well when trials and temptations put an edge to our prayers. ‘Keep me from sin,’ is the ardent desire of my heart. O, what is past experience, if God should forsake me? What sin is there that I might not fall into? But my strength is in the mighty God of Jacob, whom I love, and trust, with every power of my soul, believing he is preparing me, by painful trials, to bring forth more fruit.

“I have often proved temptations a sign of ensuing comfort.

“June 2.—This year my cup has been mixed with many bitters; but now a sense of the divine presence is more than equivalent for all.

‘O love divine, how sweet thou art!’

“June 21.—All the comforts I have derived from the Rock of my salvation have been balanced by trials of various kinds. I may truly say, ‘O, to grace how great a debtor!’

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MISS HANNAH BALL.

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FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Thorne, June 28, 1781.

MY DEAR SISTER,

Is it not a true saying (though in an Apocryphal writer) that "a friend is made for adversity?" If, then, you found "troublesome times," were not those the very times when you should have wrote to me? Perhaps the troubles then would have soon been over, which for want of this lasted so much longer. If you do not love all the children of God, you are wrong: but it is also wrong to love them all equally. We ought to love with a far more endeared affection, those to whom we are united in Christian fellowship, even though ten or fifty of these walk unworthy their profession, or even draw back as a dog to his vomit. Let each of these bear his own burden. But do not love the rest ever the less, for His sake. If you judge it would be a means of easing or strengthening your mind, you may tell me what has tried you. You know I love you, and put the best construction upon every word you say. See that you be not weary of well-doing. In due time you shall reap, if you faint not!

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

“Sept. 2.—Sometimes, in an hour when we expect not, the Lord graciously visits his inheritance. In the night season I found as strong a witness as I ever felt, that my heart was all love.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

London, November 17, 1781.

“SUFFERED from those you loved most?” Nay, my dear Hannah, I thought you had loved me as well as any one. And I hope you never suffered from *me*. At least, I never designed you should. I would not willingly give you any pain: but I would give you all the comfort that is in my power.

I am in great hopes you will yet see an increase of the work of God this year, both in High-Wycomb and the other parts of the Circuit. You have two sound Preachers, and two plain, downright men, who speak the truth from their heart. Encourage them, whenever you have a fair occasion, to preach full salvation, as now attainable by faith.

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

FROM THE SAME.

Bristol, March 10, 1782.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I WOULD not willingly grieve you. I love you too well; and have done for many years. I was disappointed both last year and this. Last year, your Preachers did less than I expected; and this year, they have done more than I expected. Yes, and I trust you shall see greater things than these. The work of God has wonderfully revived in many parts of the nation. And I do not know why it should not revive among *you* also. Certainly you should look and ask for it.

I am glad to hear so good an account of your sister: the more active she is, the more her soul will live. I wanted to know what was become of those little maidens; and trust some of them will bring forth fruit to perfection. As you have a peculiar love for children, and a talent for assisting them, see that you stir up the gift of God which is in you. If you gain but one of them in ten, you have a good reward for your labour.

I am, my dear sister,

Yours affectionately,

J. WESLEY.

FROM THE SAME.

London, August 4, 1782.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I ALMOST wondered, that I did not receive a line from you, for so long a season. I could not easily believe that your love was grown cold: and I am glad to hear it is not. But it is a discouragement, to see one month pass after another without any perceptible fruit of our labour, without any discernible outpouring of the Spirit, either in His convincing or converting influences. But beware you do not cast away hope! "He will come, and will not tarry." You know not how soon He may send on all around you

"A kindly gracious shower
Of heart-reviving love!"

Look for it, my dear Hannah! Pray for it! Expect it soon! And you will not be disappointed. Peace be with all your spirits!

I am, my sister and friend,
Your affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

FROM THE SAME.

London, December 1, 1782.

MY DEAR SISTER,

IT is hard, if we cannot trust the invisible

God farther than we can see Him ! We do not yet see the fruit of our labours : but we can trust Him that hath promised. " He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him : " He hath already done great things ; but He will do greater things than these. Only " hold fast the beginning of your confidence steadfast unto the end. "

You do well, whenever opportunity offers, to step over to Watlington. It will be a means of increasing life, both in them and yourself. I only wish you could see our friends at Oxford, too, that iron might sharpen iron.

I hope you do not drop the select society. If Mr. Rhodes strongly and explicitly preaches perfection, he will see more and more fruit of his labour.

I am, with love to my dear Ann,
Your affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

FROM THE SAME.

Near London, June 7, 1783.

MY DEAR SISTER,

YOUR mentioning past times puts me in mind of God's remarkable providence in the Oxford Circuit. Four young women have been made the chief support of four societies. One of them

quitted her post at Henley, and both she and the society sunk into nothing. The other three, by the grace of God, stand their ground; and so do the societies at Wycomb, Watlington, and Witney. And I trust, my dear friends, Hannah Ball, Martha Chapman, and Ann Bolton, will never be weary of well-doing. I cannot find any fault in them, but that they are not so well acquainted with each other, as I would fain have them to be.

If I possibly can, I will spend a night with you, as I go from London to Bristol next month. I was well pleased to hear of Mr. Batting's generosity to our poor friends at Oxford. It seems as if the time is drawing near, for more good to be done there also. We should expect to see still greater things. The right hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence.

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

FROM THE SAME.

London, October, 1783.

MY DEAR SISTER,

YOUR wisdom is, as far as is possible, not to think or speak of Mr. W—— at all. You have better things to think of; namely, that God is

returning to his people. There is a beginning already; but you should continually expect to see greater things than these.

“Temptations,” says Mr. Haliburton, “and distinct deliverance from temptation, profit us much;” and “He prepareth for us,” as Kempis observes, “occasions of fighting, that we may conquer.” Never scruple to declare explicitly what God has done for your soul. And never be weary of exhorting the believers to “go on to perfection.” When they are athirst for this in any place, the whole work of God goes on.

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

FROM THE SAME.

Edinburgh, April 25, 1784.

MY DEAR SISTER,

It would not be strange if your love did grow cold. It would only be according to the course of nature. But, blessed be God, we know there is a power that controls the course of nature; and the affection which flows from this does not depend upon blood and spirits, and therefore “never faileth.”

I was afraid there had been some misunder-

standing between Mr. B—— and you. Let him and you be free and open with each other, and I trust nothing will hurt you.

Whenever the Preachers strongly exhort the people, to accept of full sanctification, and to accept it now, by simple faith, there the work of God in general will prosper. This is the proper Methodist testimony !

I am, with kind love to Ann,
My dear sister,
Your affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

“ June 7, 1784.—If the Lord renders my feeble attempts in any measure useful to his children, or others, I feel a jealous fear lest the least of the praise should attach to dust and ashes, which should alone redound to the Lord. O, to be ever kept so as ‘ that praise may not elate, or frowns depress, my mind ! ’ ”

The apparent reluctance in many professors to attend the means of grace, and the little improvement of others in the divine life, often depressed her zealous soul. She writes on this occasion :—

“ June 29.—I this morning feel something like the beginning of a broken heart, on account of some people slighting the ways of strict

holiness. I am weak: Lord, strengthen me! If my Lord would grant me my request, it would be to die, rather than live to see his work decline.

“It is sometimes truly seasonable to have recourse to a social Christian friend; but Jesus is a friend possessed of strength and wisdom,

‘To whom I can impart
The every joy and sorrow of my heart.’”

No trial she ever named, in all her diary, went so near her heart, as to be lightly esteemed by the people of God.

“Sept. 28.—My mind has been stayed on God; and I have been enabled to enter into a fresh covenant to walk more closely with him, so that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, shall separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus my Lord. Nothing short of this is sufficient for me.

‘Snatch me from ill to come,
When I from Thee would fly:
O take my wandering spirit home,
And grant me then to die!’

“Jan. 4, 1785.—It is nearly twenty years since I first heard the Methodist preaching. Innumerable are the blessings I have received from a bountiful God. The trials and tempta-

tions he hath preserved me in, and brought me through, I cannot recount; but they are all numbered, and past. Hitherto the Lord hath been my help; and the crowning grace of all is, a sweet taste of his love.

“March 5.—The Lord graciously disposes my heart with strong desire, whereunto I have attained, to hold fast, nor walk in a lower path than my heavenly Lord commands. I feel the need of wisdom, and the Spirit’s constant aid, that I may not be weakened by slow degrees. Thou mighty preserver of them that trust in Thee, make bare thine arm, O my God! and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.”

The following is a rare appeal; yet her uniform piety leaves no doubt of its sincerity:—

“I call to witness, ye heavens and earth, and all the heavenly hosts, if death be not preferable to life, if life be attended with less of the divine presence. Grief and holy sorrow are ever attendant on the thought of losing, in the smallest degree, the favour of God. But myself I cannot save, in whole or in part: it is the great Jehovah that must save. I trust in him; and know in whom I trust.”

“June 3.—Twenty years since I found peace in the favour of God. Ever since that time, through divine mercy and grace, I have been

enabled to preserve a good conscience, and, in some degree, have walked with God. To him alone be all the glory; for his own right hand hath wrought the work.

‘ Excluded is my every boast,
My glory swallow’d up in shame.’

“ July 15.—After a pleasant and profitable interview with a few of God’s children, I met with a sharp and unexpected trial; but was enabled in silence to sustain it. Lord, do I need such painful draughts still, to keep my heart with thee?

“ July 28.—The Lord is my comfort and stay, and keeps me from expecting happiness in any thing beneath himself.

“ Oct. 7.—Many are the trials I have to pass through; but, notwithstanding, I find the yoke easy, and the burden light; and that I can press on towards the ‘Canaan’s land of promise.’ Happy time when I shall bid all here adieu, and enter the abodes of bliss, where ‘sorrow and sighing shall flee away,’ and where ‘the weary are at rest.

“ Nov. 18.—A succession of trials and comforts have been the portion of my cup since I wrote last. Yesterday my heart was overwhelmed with grief, lest our unfaithfulness, as a

society, should provoke the Lord to remove from the ark of his presence.

“Dec. 28.—I have now much reason to bless God, that he enables me to go on cheerfully from day to day, trusting in him with the whole heart as my Prophet, Priest, and King.

“Jan. 25, 1786.—Yesterday the following lines were the feeling language of my heart :—

‘No, not if all the saints could join,
To make their works and merits mine;
Still stand I by no other plea
Than, God be merciful to me.’

“There is no other way whereby I expect to be saved, but in and through Jesus Christ. Blessed be his name, he was offered up for me, and is revealed in me.

“Feb. 25.—This day I followed to the grave the remains of that faithful friend to truth, Thomas Humphries, who for many years was an ornament to the Gospel, and the first person that received the Methodist Preachers in Wycomb. He stood by the pious Mr. Walsh, amidst a shower of stones, whilst he was proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation to a part of the people of the town. His last moments were triumphant. He spoke with the warmest animation of the love of Christ to him, and that

his departure hence would be to dwell with angels. His last words were, 'Dear Jesus, I am coming.'"

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Liverpool, April 13, 1786.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I AM glad to hear that your society prospers, and that the work of God continues to increase in the town. It always will, if prayer-meetings are kept up (without interfering with the classes and bands). These have been, and still are, attended with a blessing in every part of England. And sister —, joining heart and hand with you, may greatly forward the work of God. See that there never be any shyness or coldness between you. Still provoke one another to love and to good works.

But I am sorry that you do not love me. You did once, or I am much mistaken. But if you did so still, you would not barely tell me, and that in general terms only, that you had been in distress; but you would have enlarged upon it, and told me all the particulars. What! do you think I do not care for you?—that my love to my dear friend is grown cold? Nay, surely I am as much interested in your happiness now,

as I was ten years ago: therefore am, as a friend,

My dear sister,

Yours as ever,

J. WESLEY.

“June 27.—After a long and great conflict with the powers of darkness, I now enjoy a gracious deliverance, with a clear evidence of the divine presence resting on my soul.

“July 4.—I have enjoyed a season of freedom from worldly cares and concerns, which has afforded me the opportunity of close communion with God. How rapid ought the growth of grace to be in those believers who have retired from secular affairs! but, alas! how few there are amongst them, who employ all their time for the best of purposes! Take warning, O my soul, and let it be thy whole study to grow in grace, and to be rendered fit for glory.

“July 13.—Yesterday I felt something, I think, of that strength of soul which the martyrs feel, when suffering in a righteous cause. Grace, almighty grace alone, can conquer the powers of hell, sustain in domestic trials, and subject the human heart to the righteous laws of Jehovah.

“Aug. 3.—This evening I have attended my

class: my much esteemed friend, Miss Turton, found peace with God. Thanks be to Him, for his unspeakable mercy.

“Jan. 18, 1787.—Whilst we are in the body, life is a warfare. If Satan cannot destroy, he will distress, the children of God. A few days ago, I was so violently assaulted by the powers of darkness, that I felt just saved from entering into temptation. Since then, I have reason to believe the work of grace is deepening in my soul.

“April 10.—Of late I have been favoured with much divine consolation; ‘yea, durable riches and righteousness;’ and that word was sweetly applied, ‘In righteousness shalt thou be established.’

“July 12.—The season of temptation and trial is a sifting time. But this is my comfort, Christ prays for me: the love of God refreshes body and mind.

“Pure benevolence naturally springs from the love of God: the wicked I love with tender pity, but the righteous with a love of friendship. Wisdom and grace are necessary to regulate our conduct with professors, as well as profane persons.”

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Bristol, October 4, 1787.

MY DEAR SISTER,

You have great reason to praise God, who has kept you for so many years a witness of his great salvation. And you must never be afraid or ashamed to declare it, especially to those that love God. Some will believe your report: some will not; for which they never want patience. For it is impossible to cut off occasion of offence from them that seek occasion. When we speak for God, we should speak with all mildness, and yet with all earnestness. But by those who do not profit thereby, this earnestness will be accounted anger. But still you have only to go on warily and steadily, between the two extremes.

Certainly you may expect to see such a work in High-Wycomb, as never was yet. On Monday next I expect to set out for London. This winter I shall not have time to take many journeys; but I shall undoubtedly find time to visit you. Peace be with all your spirits.

I am, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WESLEY.

“ April 4, 1788.—Confinement by sickness is a seasonable opportunity for improvement in patience and resignation. The love of God is a sweet support in pain. I could, but I dare not, invite death to do his office. O, how pleasant it is to say, ‘ Father, thy will be done !’ I long to enjoy the fulness of God. I am happy in the comfort of hope, and a blessed assurance of a joyful immortality when this poor life is ended. I long to go home, like a ship richly laden.

“ June 1.—My late illness terminated in a dropsy. It was only by the divine mercy and aid I have survived the painful operation of extracting fourteen quarts of water ! I was graciously preserved in peace and patience.

‘ May my remnant of my days
Be spent to His praise,
Who died the whole world to redeem.’

“ Oct. 23.—By divine assistance, I have thus far held on my way to Mount Zion. The path I am now called to walk in is humbling to human nature, yet rendered pleasant by this consideration,—it is a royal road, having been travelled before by the King of Kings, and his most renowned followers. My prayer ascends for grace to follow his meek example up to glory.

“It is a blessing to be patient in time of sickness: but I long to rejoice and praise the Lord; yea, my soul on this occasion would rise to the highest attainment of Christian holiness.

“Dec. 31.—Twenty-one years since, I gave all my heart to God. I bless his holy name, I am happy in divine love, and still my heart is all the Lord’s. May I live to Him who died for me, and die to live with Him who lives for evermore.

“Jan. 30, 1789.—Contentment under the pressure of sickness is an inexpressible blessing from the Lord. My soul says, ‘Either sickness or health; which my Lord chooses, since I am blessed with his love, and resigned to unerring wisdom.’

“Deprived of public ordinances, my gracious Lord visits me in my chamber.

“April 5.—I long for the courts of the Lord, to worship with his people. I want an increase of the spirit and power of prayer. I wait at the Lord’s feet.

“April 12.—If in this state of things, difficulties and trials, temptations and afflictions, conduce to a nearer conformity to my suffering Lord, most gladly then will I glory in mine infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

“ April 26.—By reason of continued illness, and long confinement, my adversary bears hard upon my patience ; but the Lord is gracious in sustaining me under mine afflictions. I do not repine, nor by anxiety anticipate what is to come. I long for closer communion. When shall my spirit break through the clay tenement, and be with Jesus ? But, stop ! my soul, thou must wait the Lord’s time.

“ June 1.—In the night I found myself very ill, and thought there was little probability of a recovery. I was immediately comforted with these words, ‘ Though after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.’ From a prospect of the resurrection, a delightful hope sprung up in my soul.

‘ Then let this feeble body fail,
And let it droop and die,
My soul shall quit this mournful vale,
And soar to worlds on high ;
Shall join the disembodied saints,
And find its long-sought rest,
That only bliss for which it pants,
In the Redeemer’s breast.’

“ Aug. 11.—I enjoy a calm peace, and a happy assurance that my ways please the Lord.

“ Aug. 26.—It is now thought advisable to submit to a second operation for my dropsical

complaint. On this solemn occasion my mind is given to much prayer. I have no painful dread respecting the approaching trial. The Lord cheers my soul, and bears me up with his loving presence. All glory be to him who doeth all things well !

“ Sept. 6.—The operation is now over, and I am still waiting until my change shall come. I have no fear of death. I search for his sting, and find he has left it in the cross on which his Master died. I then demand, ‘ Death, where is thy sting ? and where thy victory, boasting grave ? ’

“ The prospect is now clear, and the brightening view of glory makes me wish for a voice to resound from pole to pole the praises of my Lord.

‘ While Jesu’s blood, through earth and skies,
Mercy, free boundless mercy, cries.’ ”

Notwithstanding these delightful foretastes of heaven’s joys, Miss Ball found the necessity of faith and hope, while detained in a weak body, under a weight of afflictions, which, no doubt, to many would appear a living sorrow, but for her, instrumentally, wrought “ a far more exceeding and an eternal weight of glory.”

“ Sept. 27.—Since I wrote last, for the most

part of my time, I have been wading in deep waters of affliction; but in and through all, I felt my anchor was cast within the veil. I still enjoy that faith which is 'the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen.' I am at present considerably refreshed by a small alleviation of my bodily complaint."

About a year before the Rev. Mr. Wesley's death, Miss Ball received the following letter from him.

FROM THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

London, November 26, 1789.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I WAS glad to receive one more line from you: perhaps the last that I shall receive. It is now many years since I gave you advice, which God enabled you to take, and to break off your connexion with an ungodly man; a very uncommon instance of resolution. You have had many trials of various kinds since then: but the Lord has delivered you out of all; and he has honoured you, by making you the instrument of much good, for many years successively. He has given you to be of use to many unawakened, and many believing, souls. He now honours you by making you a partaker

of his sufferings: so much the more shall you be conformed to his death, and know the power of his resurrection. You are well nigh worn out in a good cause; yet a little longer, and pain is no more. Look up, my dear friend. The prize is before us: we are on the point of meeting to part no more. In time and eternity you will be united with

Your ever affectionate brother,
J. WESLEY.

“Jan. 4, 1790.—For two days past, I have been confined to my room: the clay tenement is dropping; but my soul is in peace, and longing to be gone. O, when will the happy moment arrive, that my spirit shall wing its way to the celestial mansions!

“Sunday, Jan. 24. — My disorder daily increases; but so much the more does my faith increase. All glory to the Lord!

“Tuesday last, I felt my soul on the wing to be gone. I was in hopes of being soon loosened from my prison of clay. O what a mercy to be thus kept by the mighty power of God! I bless him for the full assurance of being with him in glory. I am abased before him, by a view of the poverty of my services, and the riches of his mercy. O for a near

approach to the divine throne! I feel much of the spirit of adoration. The words of the poet were sweet, and in a far deeper sense than I could ever utter before:—

‘Thee we adore, eternal name!’

“Jan. 16, 1791.—I am yet the Lord’s prisoner; but my soul still hungers and thirsts after righteousness. Two nights ago I felt much of the divine presence shine on my soul, and could say,

‘I thank thee, uncreated Sun,
That thy bright beams on me have shone;
I thank thee, whose enlivening voice,
Bids my freed heart in thee rejoice.’

“From day to day I feel the liberty Christ hath purchased for his people. He hath fulfilled his promise, ‘My presence shall go with thee.’

“Oct. 9.—My disorder lies heavy upon me, and the springs of animal powers move very slowly; but a fresh spring of life in my soul is as a reviving cordial. More of this, O my God, in thy tender mercies give, that I may rejoice in thy will. Good is the Lord, in preserving me from sinking in deep waters.

“Jan. 15, 1792.—The Lord has permitted me to drag a weak body over the threshold of

*No mention of Mr Wesley's death
on March 2. 1791.*

another year, and still the tottering house is propped. My soul is kept in second life.

“ May 1.—By a convulsive fit a few days ago, I was deprived of speech, but preserved happy in my soul ; and in two days my speech returned. I hope for greater things than I have yet experienced, to be wrought in me by the presence of the Lord.

“ May 6.—The love of God has been renewed to my soul every morning since I wrote last ; and the prospect still opens. The nearer I approach, brighter and still brighter views I have of eternal glory.

“ May 9.—The following words were lately applied with much power to my heart: ‘ Forsake me not when my strength faileth.’

‘ Through labour exhausted, and pain,
Will Christ from his servants depart ?
Or with me in weakness remain,
The strength and the joy of my heart ?

‘ His power I in weakness shall prove,
Confiding in Jesus’s name,
The God of unchangeable love,
For ever and ever the same.’

“ May 26.—The Lord has dealt bountifully with his servant since the above was written. I am divinely assisted, and drawn out to say,

‘Bold to take up, firm to sustain, the consecrated cross.’

“June 24.—The Lord has strengthened me a little. I have the use of my hand again, which I had lost for a week. I feel much thankfulness to God for this, and the many mercies I enjoy; but above all, for that permanent peace of soul which I possess from day to day, and a sure trust, that, when this poor life shall end, I shall be for ever with the Lord.

“July 15.—Blessed be my gracious Preserver! He accomplishes his word, wherein he hath caused me to hope, by keeping me in perfect peace, with a mind resting on Jehovah. I am very low, but quite resigned to the Lord. O the sweetness of ascribing all glory to the Lord!”

These were the last words she ever wrote in her diary. Her bodily strength now visibly declined apace; yet

“Her mind was tranquil and serene,
No terrors in her looks were seen;
A Saviour’s smiles dispell’d the gloom,
And smooth’d her passage to the tomb.”

Her sister, Miss Ann Ball, gives the following account of her end:—

“In conversation, I was naming the various disorders by which many were hurried out of

the world: she replied, 'Assure yourselves, when I am gone, my soul will be happy.'

"Aug. 12. — 'I have lately,' she said to me, 'read over the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah; but never before saw them in so clear a light as they now appear, both as they relate to other historical parts of the Bible, and also their accomplishment in the New Testament.'

"Aug. 13.—My dear sister was exceedingly ill; but, by reason of the extreme heat of the weather, she was obliged to rise earlier than usual. In the afternoon she was in much pain, and requested to be laid down. Before we could get her up stairs, she fainted. She afterwards revived a little, and with a faltering voice repeated the following lines:—

'O that I might at once go up,
No more on this side Jordan stop,
But now the land possess!'

"I asked, if she thought death was near. She replied, she 'could not tell; but wished he would strike his dart.' She then said, 'I shall be with Jesus, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the good people of whom I have read!'

"A friend from London came to see her; to whom she said, 'The Lord has been with me in

my affliction ; and he keeps my soul in perfect peace.' She slumbered a great part of that day. On being asked, ' Are you happy ? ' she replied, ' Yes: the Lord is with me; and I have no doubt he will be with me in the dark valley and shadow of death. A shadow cannot hurt.'

" Aug. 16, 1792.—Between ten and eleven o'clock she was seized with great pain of body, which was attended with convulsions. These lasted but a short time. Five minutes after eleven o'clock, the Lord graciously released her from the body of clay, and admitted her happy triumphant spirit to be for ever with himself, according to his gracious promise, ' Where I am, there my servants shall be, that they may behold my glory.' "

Thus lived, and thus died, Miss Hannah Ball, in the fifty-ninth year of her age ; as exemplary a pattern of all Christian holiness, in doctrine, experience, and practice, as perhaps any of her contemporaries. She not only possessed a sound judgment of the doctrines, but uniformly manifested a most rigid observance of all the precepts, of the Gospel. It was her invariable maxim, " The copy ought to come as near the original as possible."

She wrought out her own salvation with fear

and trembling ; yet only expected eternal glory through the blood of Christ, being sanctified by grace, and made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

Her funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, on Héb. xii. 14.

May all who read these memoirs, live as exemplary, and die as happy, as the subject of them : and may my last end be like hers !

THE END.

Riviera Evermore &c

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